shôjo

RED RIVER

6

story and art by **Chie Shinohara**

RED RIVER
vol.6

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STORY AND ART BY CHIE SHINOHARA

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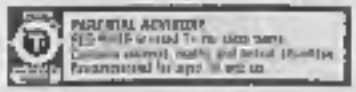

PRINCESS YURI...
IT IS CUSTOMARY FOR A PRINCE TO HAVE MANY CONCUBINES AND SERVANTS.
PRINCE KAI IS UNUSUAL BECAUSE HE DOESN'T.
ALL THAT FOR ONE MAN?!
MATTIWAZA MUST BE A REAL PERVERT!

HIS HIGHNESS HAS NO WIFE.
...IT SEEMS BARBARIC TO ME. NOT TO MENTION SEXIST.
AS SOMEONE FROM 21ST CENTURY JAPAN...
WELL, HIS WIFE MUST BE VERY UNDERSTANDING.
WHAT?

HIS HIGHNESS HAS NEVER TAKEN A LEGAL WIFE...
AND HE SAYS HE HAS NO INTENTION OF DOING SO.

28 CONCUBINES AND...
...200 FEMALE SERVANTS AND SLAVES LIVE HERE.

BEYOND THIS GATE IS THE SERAGLIO OF THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS.

PLEASE EXCUSE ME.
...
YOU'RE NOT THINKING OF TAKING A PEEK INSIDE THE BLUE DEER ROOM...
PRINCESS YURI?
SIGH
NO, THANK YOU! I WANT TO KEEP MY HEAD!
I ONLY KNOW THAT EIGHT WOMEN HAVE ENTERED THAT ROOM, EITHER OUT OF CURIOSITY OR BY MISTAKE...
...AND THE PRINCE EXECUTED EVERY ONE OF THEM.
SO HAVE A CARE, MILADY.

YOU MAY USE THEM AT ANY TIME YOU LIKE.
THIS IS THE 29TH CONCUBINE'S ROOM, HOLY ISHTAR.
THE HALLS AND COURTYARDS OF THE SERAGLIO ARE COMMON AREAS.
SKWEEK
WHY NOT?
I COULDN'T SAY, MILADY.
...
...YOU MUST NEVER ENTER THE BLUE DEER ROOM, THE SOUTHERNMOST CHAMBER.
BLUE DEER ROOM?
YES, MILADY.
THAT ROOM HAS BEEN FORBIDDEN SINCE PRINCE MATTIWAZA SEALED IT.
WHAT'S IN THAT ROOM?
...
I KNOW NOT.

I DON'T CARE WHAT MATTIWAZA HAS HIDDEN IN THAT ROOM.
I JUST WANT TO FIND A WAY OUT OF THIS PLACE.
PRINCESS YURI!
HMM. CAN'T GET OUT THIS WAY.
I THINK HE WILL.
PRINCE KAIL WILL COME FOR YOU.
YOU NEED ONLY SIT QUIETLY!
A PRINCESS SHOULD WAIT FOR HER PRINCE TO RESCUE HER!
I WANT TO SEE HIM, BUT...
I DON'T WANT TO BE A DISTRACTION OR A BURDEN.
BUT I DON'T WANT TO WAIT.

PRINCE KAIL WENT TO SOME TROUBLE TO LET ME KNOW HE LOVES ME.
I WANT TO DO SOME-THING TO HELP HIM.
SO THE BEST THING I CAN DO IS TO ESCAPE ON MY OWN.
BUT I'M TRAPPED HERE.
OKAY, RYUI AND SHALA...
LET'S EXPLORE THIS SERAGLIO.
EXPLORE, PRINCESS YURI?!

PRINCESS NADIA?
IS THIS GIRL...
...HIS HIGHNESS'S NEW CONCUBINE?
?!

SHE REALLY IS A CHILD.
LOOK, IT'S HER.

I'M USED TO IT.
WHAT NASTY WOMEN!
HMPH. THEY'RE NOT EVEN WHISPERING.
ISHTAR MAY BE THE GODDESS OF BEAUTY AND WAR...
...BUT THIS ISHTAR SHOULD STICK TO WAR.
HAHAHA
SHE HAS A FLAT CHEST AND A BOY'S HIPS!

...IF THE GATE WE CAME THROUGH IS THE ONLY EXIT.
FORGET THEM. I JUST WANT TO KNOW...

YOU CARELESS FOOL!
LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE TO PRINCESS NADIA!
OUCH!
AM

DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME- IT'S FUTILE.
HMPH. YOU LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE PLANNING YOUR ESCAPE.
PRINCE OF DARK-NESS!
WH- WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

I FORGOT.
OH! THAT'S RIGHT!
THIS IS MY SERAGLIO. WHAT DO YOU THINK I WANT?
WHAT DO YOU WANT HERE AT THIS HOUR?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

HE MUST BE VERY HEALTHY!
...THEN HE'S WITH A DIFFERENT ONE EVERY NIGHT OF THE MONTH!
IF HE SLEEPS WITH ONE CONCUBINE EVERY NIGHT...
SEX
HE COULD SHOW UP HERE AT ANY TIME. I'LL HAVE TO BE CAREFUL WHEN I MAKE MY BREAK FOR IT.

IT'S ALL RIGHT. I HOPE YOU'LL SOON FEEL AT HOME HERE.
...
PRINCESS NADIA IS HIS HIGHNESS'S FIRST CONCUBINE, SUPERIOR TO ALL!
BOW!

HMPH. SHE MAY BE FROM A ROYAL FAMILY, BUT SHE'S NOT HIS WIFE!
A FAR CRY FROM A NOBODY FROM NOWHERE.
SHE IS OF THE ROYAL FAMILY OF BABYLONIA.
YES. PRINCESS NADIA IS THE MOTHER OF HIS HIGHNESS'S FIRST PRINCESS AND SECOND PRINCE.
SUPERIOR TO ALL...
SHE'S A CONCUBINE, JUST LIKE PRINCESS YURI.
HEE HEE
HEE HEE

WHAT ARE YOU...
...PLOTTING NOW?
PRINCESS NADIA?
SHE LOOKS LIKE SOME-ONE...

ANOTHER MESSAGE FROM PRINCE KAIL!
PRINCESS YURI! LOOK AT THIS!
BUT HAVE A CARE.
MAKE SURE OUR NAMES ARE NOT MENTIONED.
YES.
SEE THAT THE GIRL GETS THIS.

IT WOULD BE BETTER IF THE PRINCE HIMSELF WERE TO SLAY THE GIRL.
IT WOULD NOT BE WISE TO CAUSE TROUBLE IN THE SERAGLIO. NOTHING ESCAPES PRINCE MATTINAZA'S NOTICE.
!!
PERHAPS THE GIRL WILL DECIDE TO VISIT THAT ROOM?
AND IF HIS HIGHNESS SHOULD FIND HER THERE...
IS THAT LIKELY, URSI?
HIS HIGHNESS ALLOWS NO ONE TO ENTER THE BLUE DEER ROOM...
OH, YES. HE KILLS WHOMEVER ENTERS WITHOUT ALLOWING THEM TO EXPLAIN THEM-SELVES.

THE GUARDS WILL HEAR US.
PRINCESS YURI, PLEASE BE QUIET.
RYU, SHALA...
HURRY!
HE'S COMING FOR ME!!
YES...
HE SAID HE WOULD IN THE MESSAGE!
WILL...
...PRINCE KAIL REALLY COME?

"I'M COMING TO RESCUE YOU TO-NIGHT."
"MEET ME IN THE SOUTHERN-MOST ROOM OF THE SERAGLIO. KAIL MURSILI."
BUT... THAT'S THE BLUE DEER ROOM.
JUST A MOMENT. WE'LL READ IT TO YOU.
THE SERVANT SAID A MERCHANT GAVE IT TO HER TO PASS TO YOU.
FROM PRINCE KAIL? REALLY?
WHAT DOES IT SAY?!
PRINCE KAIL IS COMING TO RESCUE US!

PRINCE KAIL?
PRINCESS YURI..
THERE'S NO ONE HERE.
IT LOOKS LIKE THIS ROOM HASN'T BEEN USED FOR A LONG TIME.
IT'S A WOMAN'S BED-ROOM.
YES, A WOMAN OF HIGH STATUS.
YOUR HIGH-NESS.
YOUR HIGHNESS, PLEASE WAKE UP.
A SERVANT JUST TOLD ME SHE SAW SOMEONE ENTER THE BLUE DEER ROOM!
EH?
WHAT?!
SHINK
HMPF

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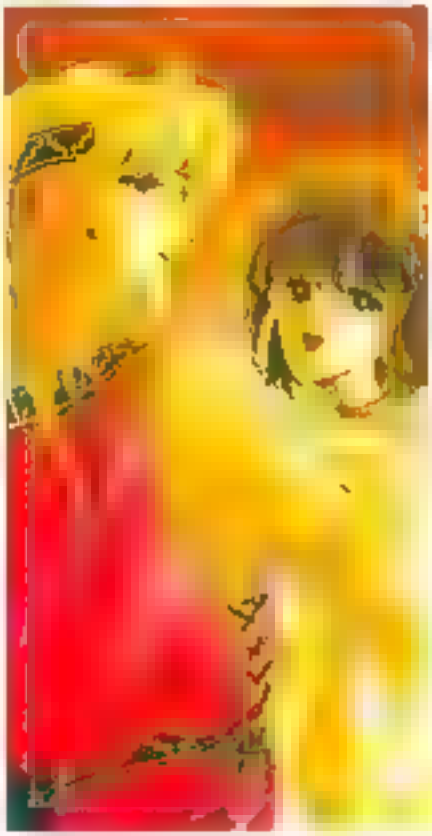

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This book reads from right to left.

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PRINCE OF DARKNESS!
GIRL.
WEREN'T YOU WARNED.
NEVER TO ENTER THIS ROOM?
EEK!
A WOMAN OF HIGH STATUS?
ONE OF MATTIWAZA'S CONCUBINES?
SEE? IT FITS YOU PERFECTLY PRINCESS YURI.
SHE WAS PROBABLY ABOUT YOUR AGE.
NO. DON'T PUT IT ON ME.
A YOUNG WOMAN.
NO. THE DRESS IS A BIT OUT OF FASHION, BUT IT'S THE DRESS OF A MAIDEN.

PRINCE OF DARKNESS.
STRIKE HER DOWN!
SHE VIOLATED YOUR LAW!
MY PRINCE, WHY DO YOU HESITATE?
SHE LOOKS LIKE QUEEN NAKIA!
QUEEN NAKIA?
IT'S QUEEN NAKIA.
I... I KNEW SHE REMINDED ME OF SOMEONE
TATUKIA!

BUT YOU THINK ONLY OF PRINCESS TATUKIA.
MY SISTER NAKIA LEFT TO BECOME THE OFFICIAL WIFE OF THE HITTITE EMPEROR.
. AND I CAME TO THIS LAND TO BE YOUR OFFICIAL WIFE.
I TALK THE WAY YOU LIKE AND DRESS THE WAY YOU LIKE..
I'VE DONE EVERY-THING TO PLEASE YOU ALL THESE YEARS.
SILENCE, NADIA!
TATUKIA?
OH!

IT'S YOUR FAULT MY PRINCE!
YOU TOOK HER AS YOUR CONCUBINE!
MESSAGE? IS THAT TRUE, NADIA?
UH.
GASP
PRINCESS NADIA IS FROM BABYLONIA!
QUEEN NAKIA IS FROM BABYLONIA, TOO!
ARE THEY SISTERS?
IT MUST HAVE BEEN
.PRINCESS NADIA WHO LURED YURI HERE WITH THE MESSAGE.

I WANT TO HELP HIM.
WHY DO YOU WANT TO KILL HER?!
SHE DID THIS BECAUSE SHE LOVES YOU.
SHE WANTED TO PLEASE YOU, AND SHE DIDN'T KNOW HOW...
BUT SHE TRIED TO KILL YOU!
BUT SHE FELT SHE HAD TO DO SOMETHING I KNOW HOW THAT FEELS!
I DON'T LIKE HER, BUT...
THAT'S HOW I FEEL. I MUST HELP PRINCE KAI.
I UNDERSTAND HER DESIRE TO PLEASE THE MAN SHE LOVES.
GET OUT OF MY WAY
OR I'LL KILL YOU, TOO!

HAS YOUR LOVE FOR HIM CLOUDED YOUR JUDGMENT?
WHAT A STRANGE COMBINATION!
SHE'S SO CHILDLIKE AND VULNERABLE WHEN IT COMES TO HER PRINCE KAL. YET I'VE SEEN HER CUNNING MIND IN ACTION.

WAP
STOP...
WH- WHAT?

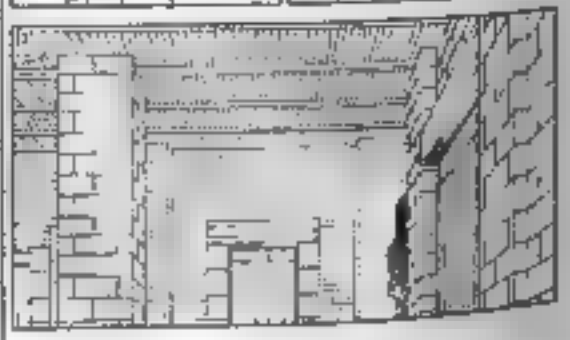
YOU BELIEVED THAT THIS CAME FROM HIM?
IF THIS WERE REALLY WRITTEN BY MURSIL, IT WOULD BEAR HIS SEAL.
BESIDES, OUR SECURITY IS NOT SO LAX THAT A FOREIGN PRINCE CAN TRAIPSE INTO MY SERAGLIO.

SO I HAVE TO ESCAPE.
KLANK

I EXPECTED THAT A SISTER OF QUEEN NAKIA WOULD BE STRONG...
BUT I SEEM TO HAVE MISJUDGED HER.

BACK TO YOUR ROOMS!
AND NEVER ENTER THIS CHAMBER AGAIN.
YOUR HIGH-NESS!

WAAAH
PRINCESS NAIRA



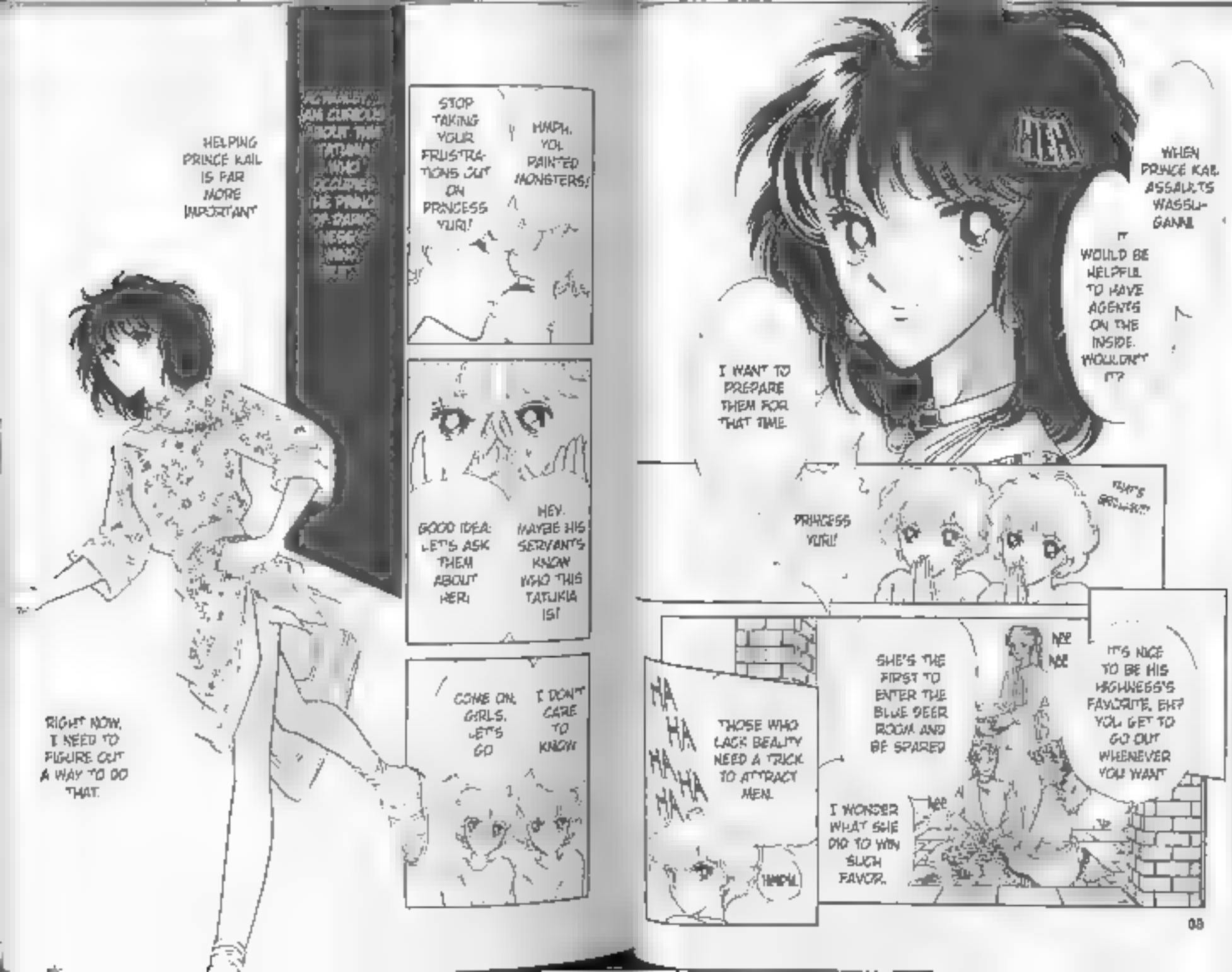
HOW COULD I MISTAKE THIS URCHIN FOR TATUKIA...
WHO WAS RENOWNED AS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN IN THE WORLD?
I MUST HAVE BEEN BEWITCHED

OH!
WOMP
PRINCE OF DARK-NESS?

LIKE A NORMAL PRINCESS?
NO.
SO YOU'RE GOING TO WAIT FOR YOUR PRINCE TO RESCUE YOU.
OH! WE'RE GLAD TO HEAR THAT ♡
PRINCE KAI! SAID.
... THAT THE HARDEST PART ABOUT TAKING AN ENEMY'S FORTRESS IS GETTING INSIDE
HERE. I CAN BE USEFUL TO PRINCE KAI WHEN HE BEGINS HIS SIEGE OF WASSUGANA.
IF THAT'S TRUE, I CAN HELP HIM BEST BY STAYING RIGHT HERE.

RYLO, SHALA.
I'M NOT GOING TO ESCAPE.

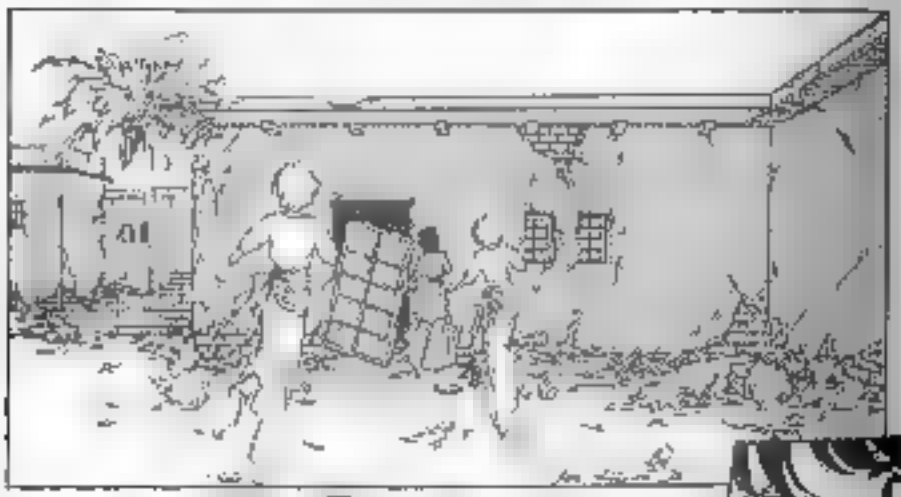
WHAT'S THE BEST THING I CAN DO FOR THE MAN I LOVE?
HOW CAN I BEST HELP HIM?


HELPING PRINCE KAIL IS FAR MORE IMPORTANT
RIGHT NOW, I NEED TO FIGURE OUT A WAY TO DO THAT.
STOP TAKING YOUR FRUSTRATIONS OUT ON PRINCESS YURI!
HMPH. YOU PAINTED MONSTERS!
GOOD IDEA. LET'S ASK THEM ABOUT HER!
HEY. MAYBE HIS SERVANTS KNOW WHO THIS TATUKIA IS!
COME ON, GIRLS. LET'S GO
I DON'T CARE TO KNOW
I WANT TO PREPARE THEM FOR THAT TIME.
IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE AGENTS ON THE INSIDE. WOULDN'T IT?
WHEN PRINCE KAIL ASSAULTS WASSU-GANE
HEH
PRINCESS YURI!
THOSE WHO LACK BEAUTY NEED A TRICK TO ATTRACT MEN.
HA HA HA HA
HMPH!
SHE'S THE FIRST TO ENTER THE BLUE DEER ROOM AND BE SPARED
I WONDER WHAT SHE DID TO WIN SUCH FAVOR.
NO! NO!
IT'S NICE TO BE HIS HIGHNESS'S FAVORITE, EH? YOU GET TO GO OUT WHENEVER YOU WANT

WORKING IN A QUARRY IS A JOB FOR POOR PEOPLE.
STILL, IT'S DECENT WORK FOR PRISONERS OF WAR.
THAT'S THEIR JOB? IT LOOKS LIKE HARD WORK
NO, PLEASE!
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
WHAT'S WRONG?
I CAN STILL WORK! PLEASE DON'T TAKE ME THERE!
DON'T PUT ME IN THE HOUSE OF REST!

ISHTAR WAS COME TO SEE US!
PRINCESS YURU!
ISHTAR!
AS THE ANTANI LABORERS, THANKS TO YOU.
YES, WE'RE GIVEN THE SAME FOOD AND SHELTER
PLEASE DON'T KNEEL
HOW ARE YOU DOING?
ARE THEY GIVING YOU ENOUGH TO EAT?

PRINCESS YURI! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
I WANT TO SEE THIS HOUSE OF REST
W-WAIT PLEASE!
IT'S NO PLACE FOR A PRINCESS.



KREEK
YOU'RE A HORRIBLE

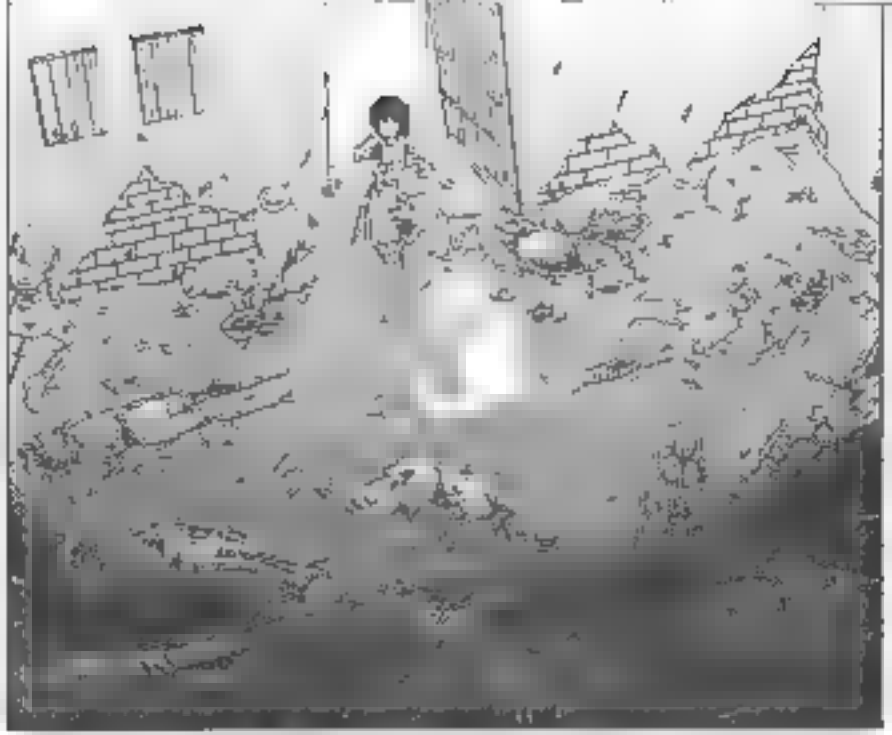
b2 — 22

HELP ME!
HE'S A MITANNI LABORER WHO GOT CRUSHED BY A ROCK
ARE PLACED IN THE HOUSE OF REST UNTIL THEY RECOVER.
THOSE WHO BECOME TOO SICK OR INJURED TO WORK.

IS IT LIKE A HOSPITAL OR SOMETHING?
WHY IS HE SO UPSET ABOUT GOING THERE?

I DON'T THINK THEY WILL EVER SEE ANATOLIA AGAIN.
BECAUSE NO ONE EVER RETURNS FROM THE HOUSE OF REST
PLEASE DON'T!
SOME OF OUR COMRADES FELL SICK AND WERE TAKEN THERE

HOW
PRINCESS YURI, LET'S GO
PLEASE.
IN WATER.
THE AIR IS STIFLING
WET DIRTY CLOTHS.
!!
WATER?
JUST A MOMENT
bzzz
IT'S PUTRID!



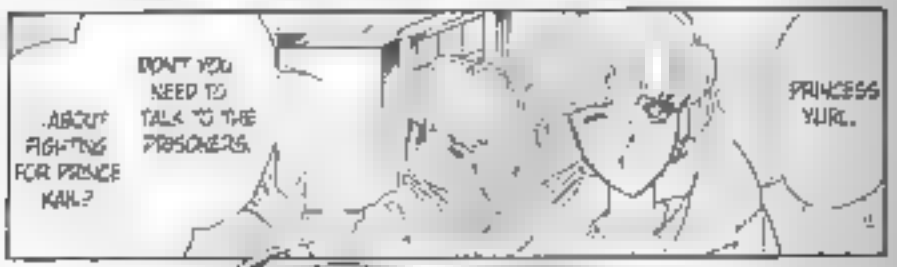
bzzz
bzzz
OH.
THIS IS TERRIBLE!

THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE WE'RE HERE BECAUSE THE GOD OF ILLNESS ENTERED OUR BODIES.
AND DON'T SAY YOU'RE DYING. YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE YOU'LL GET WELL
OF COURSE NOT
KOFF
KOFF
WRETCHES LIKE US CAN ONLY WAIT FOR DEATH.
THAT'S NOT TRUE!
GO HOME THIS IS NO PLACE FOR THE LIVING
STOP SAYING THAT!!

IT'S COMMON KNOWLEDGE IN MY WORLD THAT CLEANLINESS IS ESSENTIAL WHEN TREATING THE SICK AND INJURED.

IF SICK PEOPLE STAY IN A FILTHY LIKE THIS, THEY'LL NEVER RECOVER.

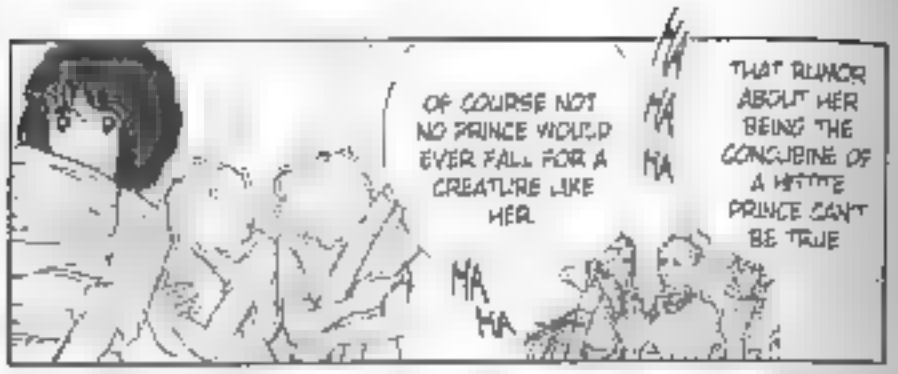
YES, MILADY I'LL FETCH IT
DON'T YOU REALIZE THAT IF YOU ARE WOUNDED IN BATTLE YOU COULD END UP IN SUCH A PLACE?
WOULDN'T YOU WANT CLEAN WATER TO DRINK?


DON'T YOU NEED TO TALK TO THE PRISONERS ABOUT FIGHTING FOR PRINCE KAL?
PRINCESS YURI.

YES. BUT I CAN'T TURN MY BACK ON THESE PEOPLE
OUR PLAN CAN WAIT THIS IS MORE IMPORTANT RIGHT NOW

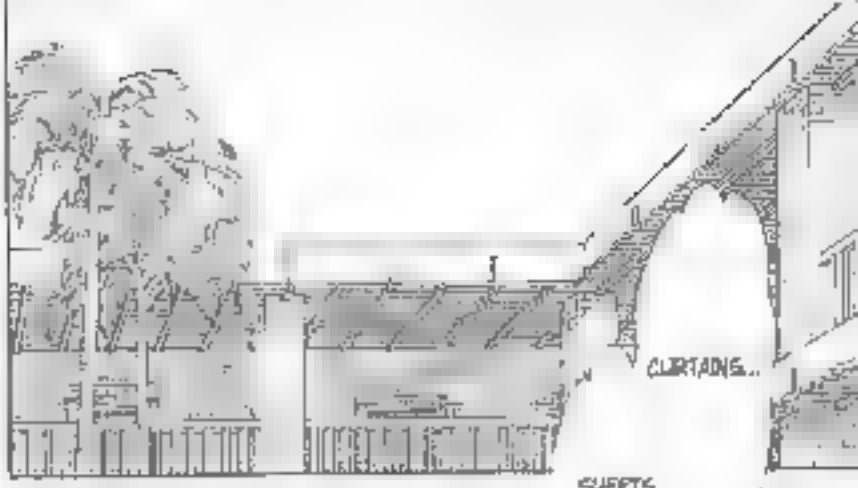
RYU, GATHER ALL THEIR CLOTHS AND BLANKETS. I'M GOING TO WASH THEM!
SHALA, OPEN THE WINDOWS AND LET IN SOME FRESH AIR.
ALL RIGHT BELIEVE WHATEVER YOU WANT!
BUT LET ME CLEAN THIS PLACE, OKAY?
FLIP
I'LL GET SOME WATER.
NO, YOU CAN'T, LADY ISHTAR.
YOU DON'T HAVE PERMISSION TO GO TO THE WELL.
WHAP
WHAT?
THEN YOU GO GET ME SOME!

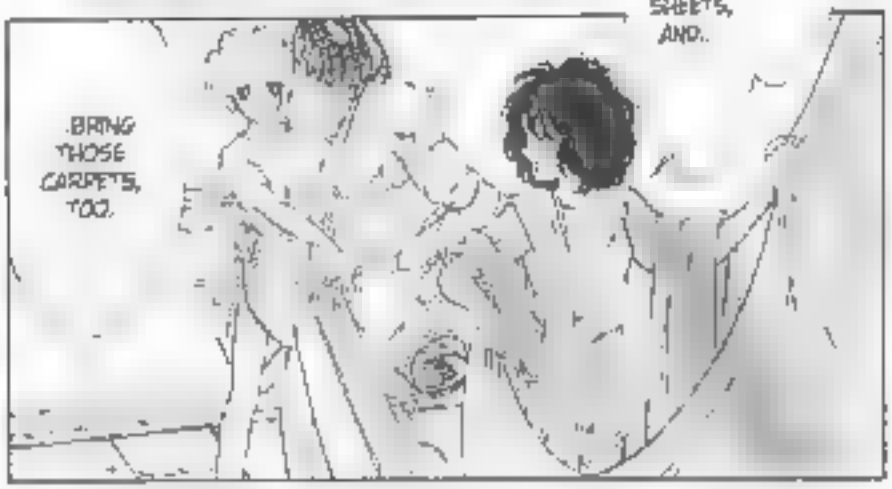
I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT TREATING SICK PEOPLE BUT
MAYBE I CAN MAKE THIS PLACE SO THAT IT ISN'T A DEATH SENTENCE TO COME HERE
THEN THEY CAN AT LEAST GET SOME REST
RYLE, HEAT SOME WATER
SHALA, WE'RE GOING TO BOIL EVERY-THING
PERFECT TIMING. WE'RE SHORT ON STAFF. WILL YOU HELP US?
Y-YES, MY SON IS HERE
OH, MADAM. DID YOU BRING SOME FOOD?
THEY SAY THE SICK ARE HAVING FEWER STOMACH PROBLEMS THAN BEFORE
ISHTAR STARTED A BIG CLEAN UP A FEW DAYS AGO
THERE'S A COMMOTION AT THE HOUSE OF REST WHAT'S GOING ON?
REALLY?
IF KEEPING THE PLACE CLEAN HELPS THE SICK TO GET BETTER, I'LL HELP HER.
HMM.
PRINCESS YURI, WE'RE SHORT ON BANDAGES AND SHEETS FOR THE SICK
FWUMP
WHAT?
THEN WE'LL BRING SOME FROM THE SERAGLIO.


OF COURSE NOT NO PRINCE WOULD EVER FALL FOR A CREATURE LIKE HER.
HA HA HA
HA HA
THAT RUMOR ABOUT HER BEING THE CONCUBINE OF A HITTITE PRINCE CAN'T BE TRUE

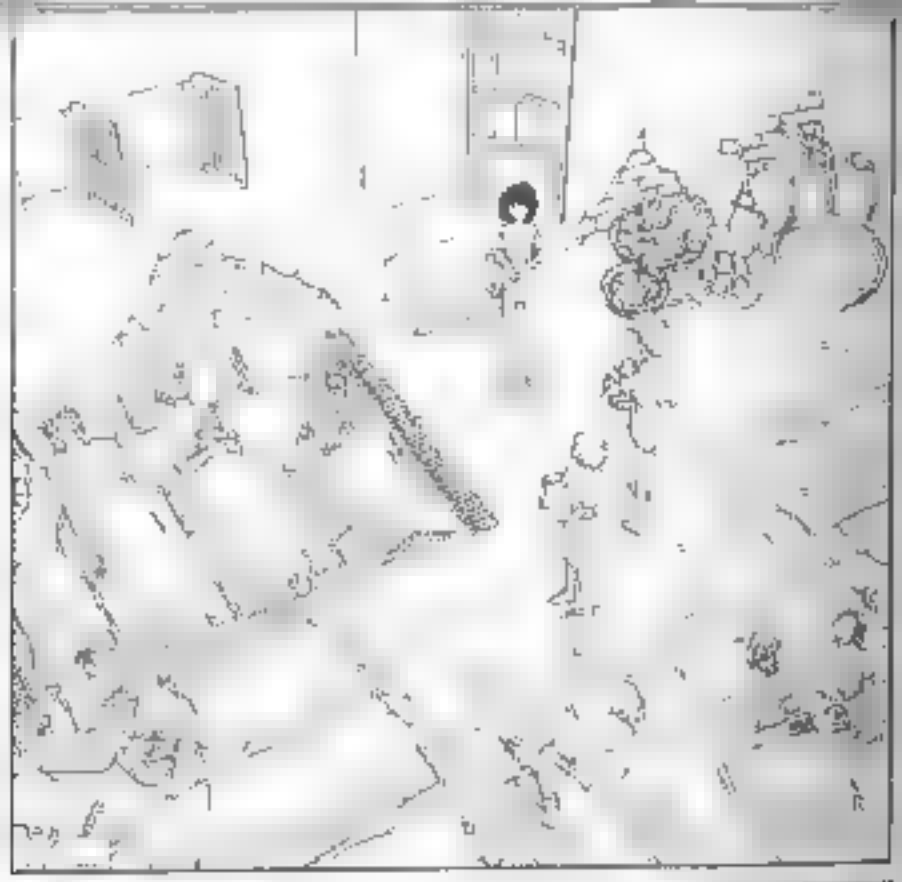
HA HA HA
VERY WELL
RYU SHALA GOING ON!
ANYWAY IF PRINCE KAIL CAN'T SEE ME WHAT'S THE POINT?
THERE'S NO TIME
PRINCESS YURI, DRESS UP AND PUT THEM TO SHAME!
WHEN PRINCESS YURI DRESSES UP, SHE'S MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN ANY OF YOU.

I CAN'T STAND IT WHEN THEY TALK THAT WAY ABOUT PRINCESS YURI. ALL THEY CARE ABOUT IS GETTING THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS'S ATTENTION!
I HATE THOSE WITCHES!


CURTAINS...

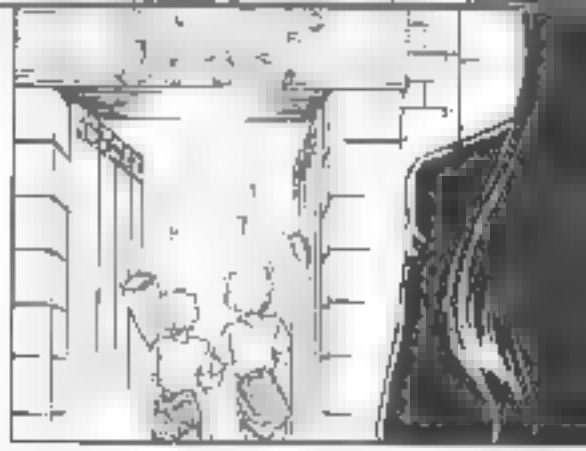

SHEETS, AND..
BRING THOSE CARPETS, TOO.

RYU, SHALA
I'LL BE THERE. I DON'T CARE WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT ME
GRRR
SHE STINKS, TOO.
OH, MY SHE'S EVEN DIRTIER THAN USUAL
OH.
IT LOOKS LIKE SHE FINALLY DECIDED TO LEAVE.

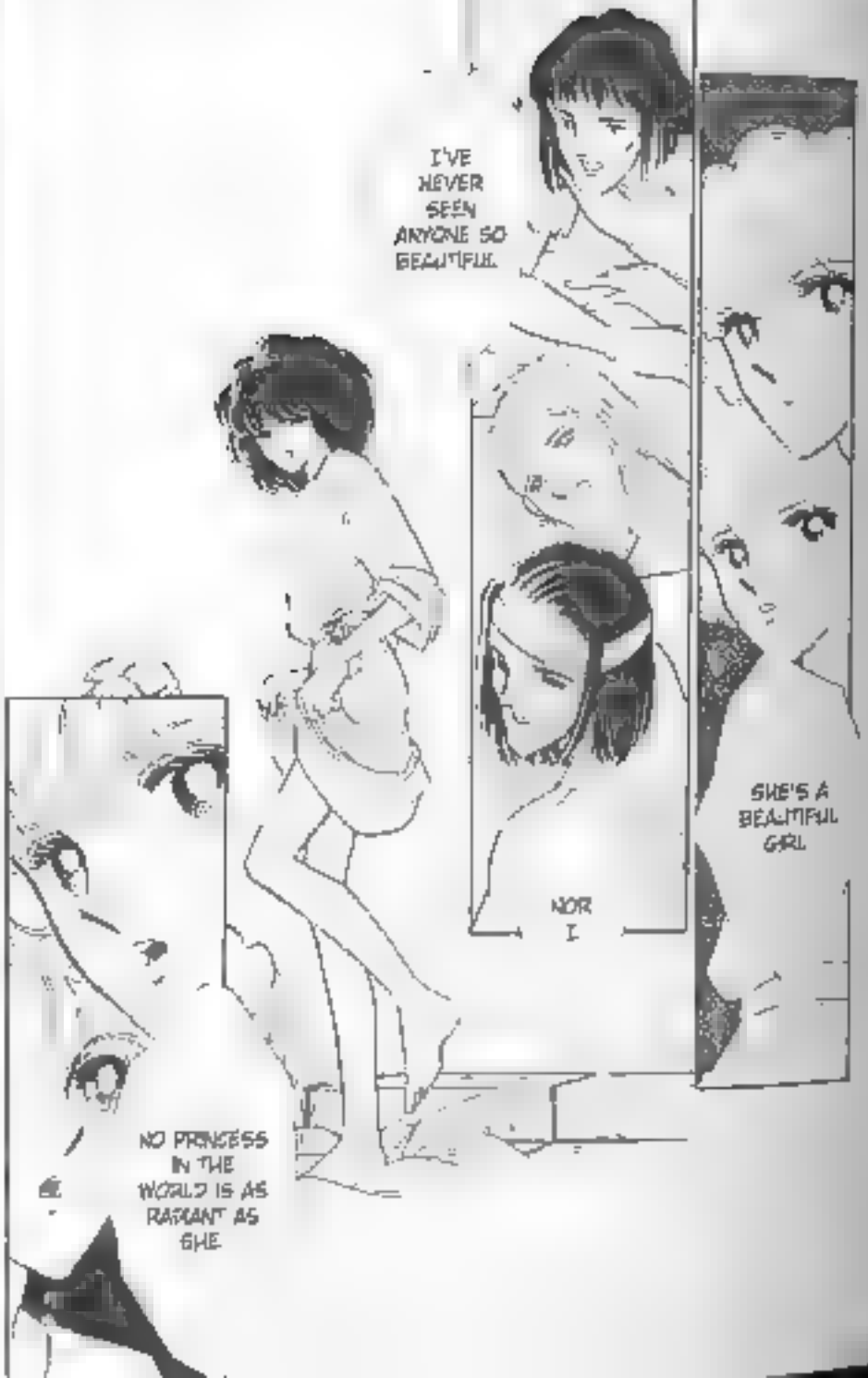


THANK YOU.
TO BE CLEAN
IT FEELS GOOD.
IT'S SOFT
IT SMELLS LIKE SUNSHINE
SPLISH

HOW DO YOU LIKE IT?
IT'S A LOT BETTER THAN BEFORE, RIGHT?
SWIP
SWIP
SWIP



YES, YOUR HIGHNESS. SHE GOES TO THE HOUSE OF REST
THE GIRL...
...GOES OUT EVERY DAY EH?
...

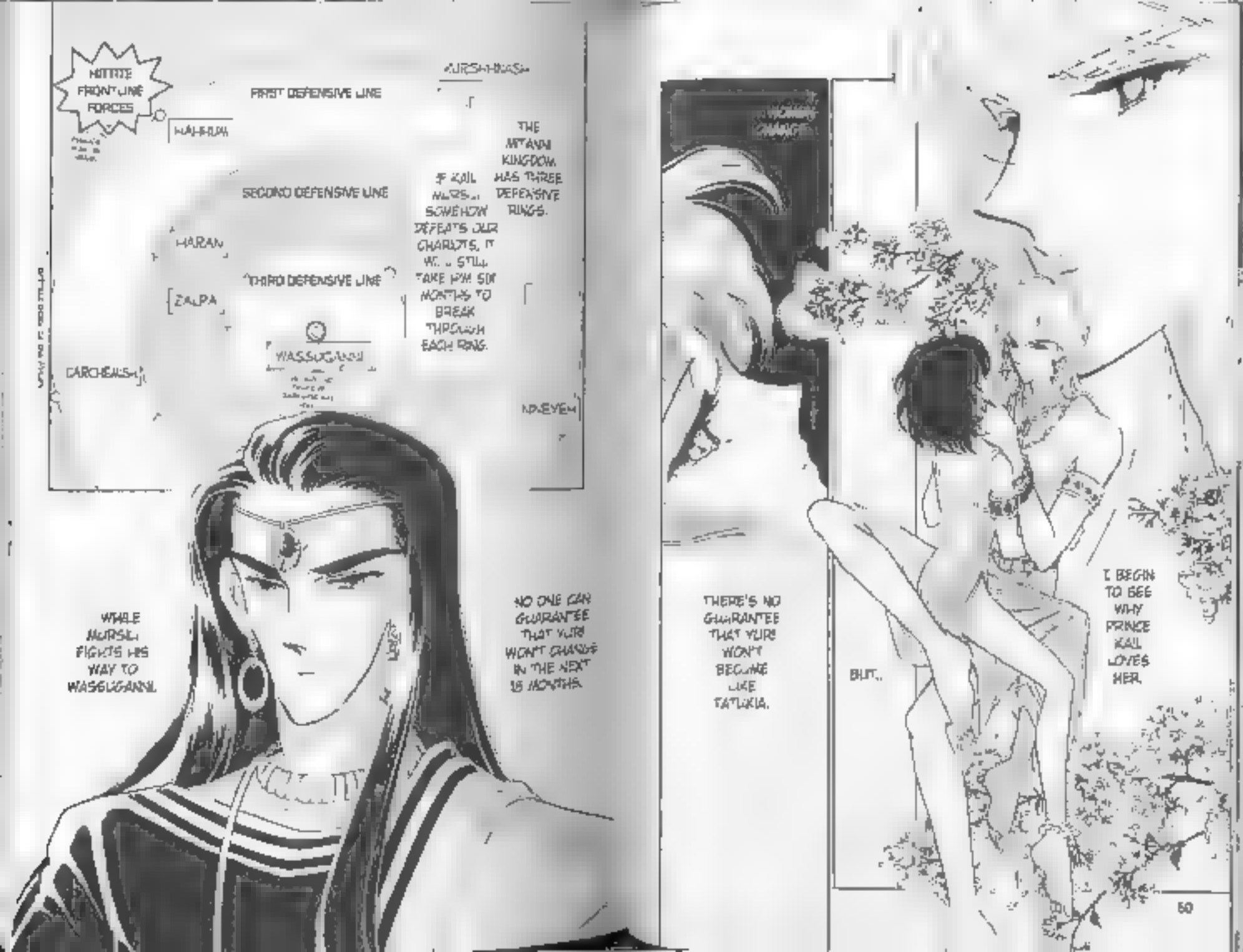

I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE SO BEAUTIFUL
SHE'S A BEAUTIFUL GIRL
NOR I
NO PRINCESS IN THE WORLD IS AS RADIANT AS SHE

I'M STARTING TO BELIEVE THAT I MAY LIVE
THIS IS THE BEST I'VE FELT SINCE I GOT HERE!

OKAY
LET'S DO LAUNDRY

THAT'S PRINCESS YURI.
YES.
A ROYAL CONCUBINE DOESN'T WASH CLOTHES.
UH-OH.
SPASH
LOOK SHE'S COVERED WITH DIRT AGAIN.
I KNOW
FWAP

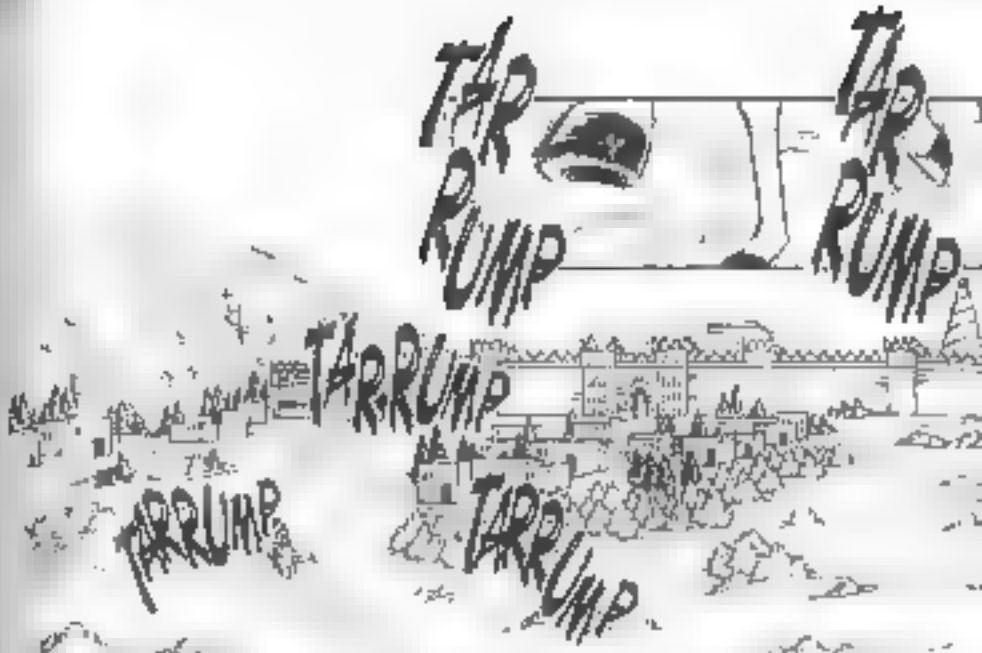
WHETHER MITANNI OR HITTITE, ALL ARE DRAWN TO HER.
SHE HAS QUALITIES THAT WIN PEOPLE'S HEARTS.
IT'S NOT THAT SHE'S A ROYAL CONCUBINE OR A GODDESS...
PRINCESS YURI IS THE FAIREST PRINCESS OF THEM ALL.
THOUGH SHE BE COVERED WITH DIRT AND DRESSED IN RAGS...

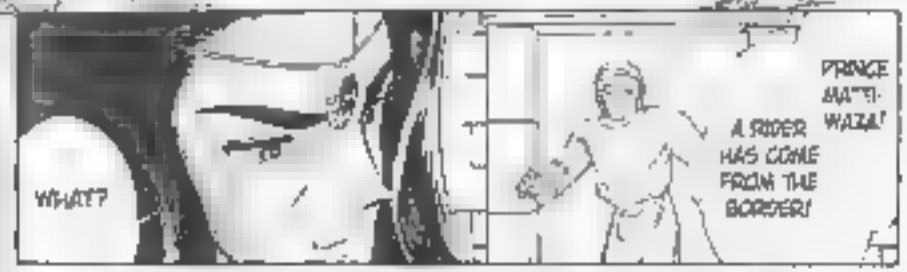

HITTITE FRONT LINE FORCES
KUSHSHAR
FIRST DEFENSIVE LINE
HARRAN
SECOND DEFENSIVE LINE
HARAN
THIRD DEFENSIVE LINE
ZALPA
WASSUGANNI
CARCHEMISH
NINEVEH
THE MITANNI KINGDOM HAS THREE DEFENSIVE RINGS.
IF KAIL MURSIL SOMEHOW DEFEATS OUR CHARIOTS, IT WILL STILL TAKE HIM SIX MONTHS TO BREAK THROUGH EACH RING.
WHILE MURSIL FIGHTS HIS WAY TO WASSUGANNI,
NO ONE CAN GUARANTEE THAT YURI WON'T CHANGE IN THE NEXT 18 MONTHS.
THERE'S NO GUARANTEE THAT YURI WON'T BECOME LIKE TATUKIA.
BUT...
I BEGIN TO SEE WHY PRINCE KAIL LOVES HER.
50

PRINCE KAIL IS ON HIS WAY!

WHAT?
HOW DID MURSIL DO THIS?

WHAT? THAT CAN'T BE HOW COULD THEY HAVE FALLEN SO QUICKLY?!
OUR CHARIOT FORCES ARE THE BEST IN THE WORLD!
THEY HAVE ALL BEEN WIPED OUT YOUR HIGHNESS.

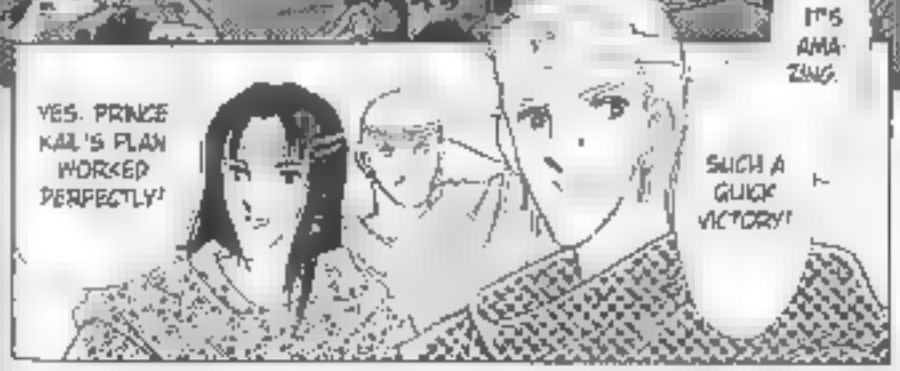

TAR RUMP
TAR RUMP
TAR RUMP
TAR RUMP
TAR RUMP

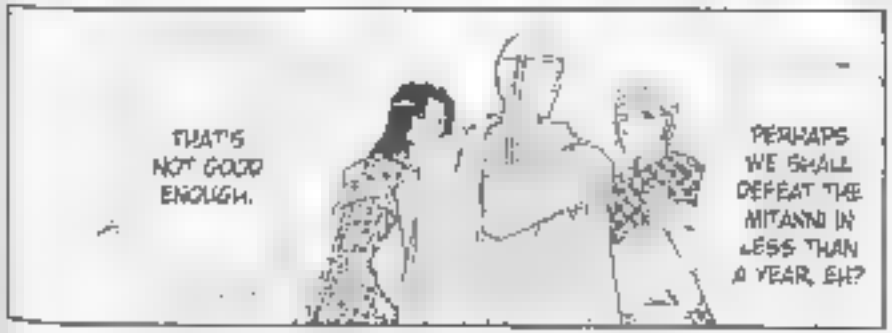

WHAT?
A RIDER HAS COME FROM THE BORDER!
PRINCE MATTI-WAZA!

THE HITTITE FORCES ARE ON THEIR WAY HERE!
BOTH HAHIUM AND MARAN, OUR FIRST AND SECOND LINES OF DEFENSE, HAVE FALLEN!
YOUR HIGHNESS!

YOUR HIGHNESS?
WE ONLY HAVE FIVE MONTHS LEFT
I PROMISED YURI I'D GET HER BACK TO HATTUSA WITHIN FIVE MONTHS.
I MUST CONFRONT THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

WOOOOO


IT'S AMAZING.
YES. PRINCE KAL'S PLAN WORKED PERFECTLY!
SUCH A QUICK VICTORY!

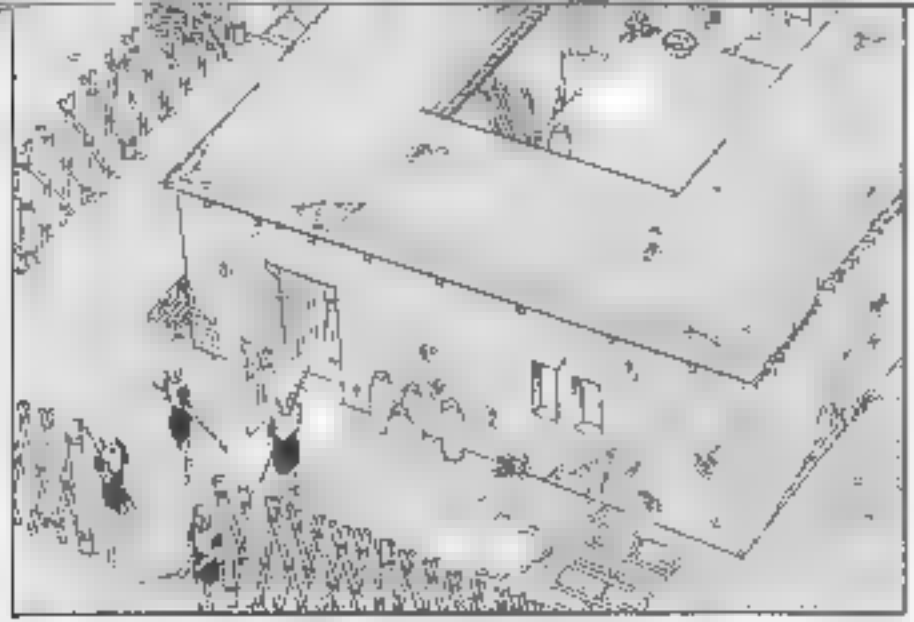

THAT'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH.
PERHAPS WE SHALL DEFEAT THE MITANNI IN LESS THAN A YEAR, EH?

HOW COULD...
THE MITANNI CHARIOT FORCES, THE FIERCEST FIGHTERS IN THE REGION, HAVE BEEN DEFEATED SO QUICKLY?
WHAT TRICK DID KAIL MURSIL EMPLOY?

I DON'T CARE HOW NURSAL MANAGED IT
I WON'T ALLOW HIM TO ADVANCE ANY FARTHER!
ALL RIGHT
WHATEVER YOU WERE IN THE PAST. YOU'RE NOW THE NITANNI'S ISHTAR.
WILL YOU GRANT US VICTORY?
I'LL GO OUT AND MEET HIM IN BATTLE!
THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS IS TAKING TO THE FIELD.
YOUR HIGHNESS IS GOING INTO BATTLE?
WE'LL SEE TO THE PREPARATIONS
HOW DID HE...
.DEFEAT MY CHARIOTS?
I DON'T KNOW ANY-THING!
SHE MAY KNOW SOME-THING.
YOUR HIGHNESS, ISHTAR WAS NURSELI'S CONCUBINE...
HOW WOULD I KNOW WHY?
THESE VICTORIES ALL HAPPENED WHILE I WAS IMPRISONED HERE.

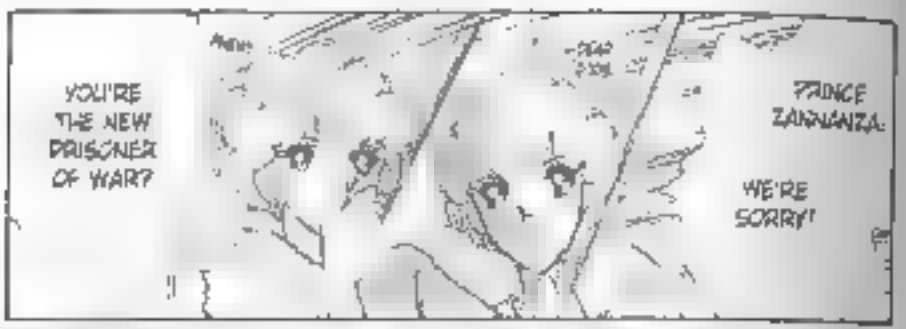
HE MUST BE GETTING CLOSE NOW.
IT'S BEEN A MONTH SINCE PRINCE KAIL TOOK HARAN.
THE WINDY SEASON HAS COME TO ANATOLIA.
IT'S THE TIME TO MAKE IRON.
I DON'T KNOW HOW HE DID IT EXACTLY. BUT I'M SURE HE CAME UP WITH AN INGENIOUS IDEA.
I BELIEVE PRINCE KAIL'S MEN WERE ARMED WITH IRON IN THOSE BATTLES.
WE'VE GOT TO TELL PRINCE KAIL THAT WASSUGANNI'S DEFENSES ARE GOING TO BE WEAKENED
RYUL SHALA, THIS IS OUR CHANCE.
I JUST HOPE SECURITY IN WASSUGANNI WILL BE LAX IN HIS ABSENCE
THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS IS GOING OUT TO FIGHT PRINCE KAIL.
THEY'RE WATCHING US. WE CAN'T GET OUT
PRINCESS YURI: HOW CAN WE DO THAT?
YES. I THINK SO.
DO YOU THINK THAT PRINCE KAIL IS WINNING BECAUSE...
BY THE WAY
WE CAN ASK THEM TO BE OUR MESSENGERS
OH!
THAT'S WHY
I KEPT IN TOUCH WITH THE HITTITE PRISONERS OF WAR.

IF THIS PLAN SUCCEEDS, I CAN GO BACK TO PRINCE KAL.
BUT I CAN'T HELP IT...
?!
EEK!
PRINCESS YURI!



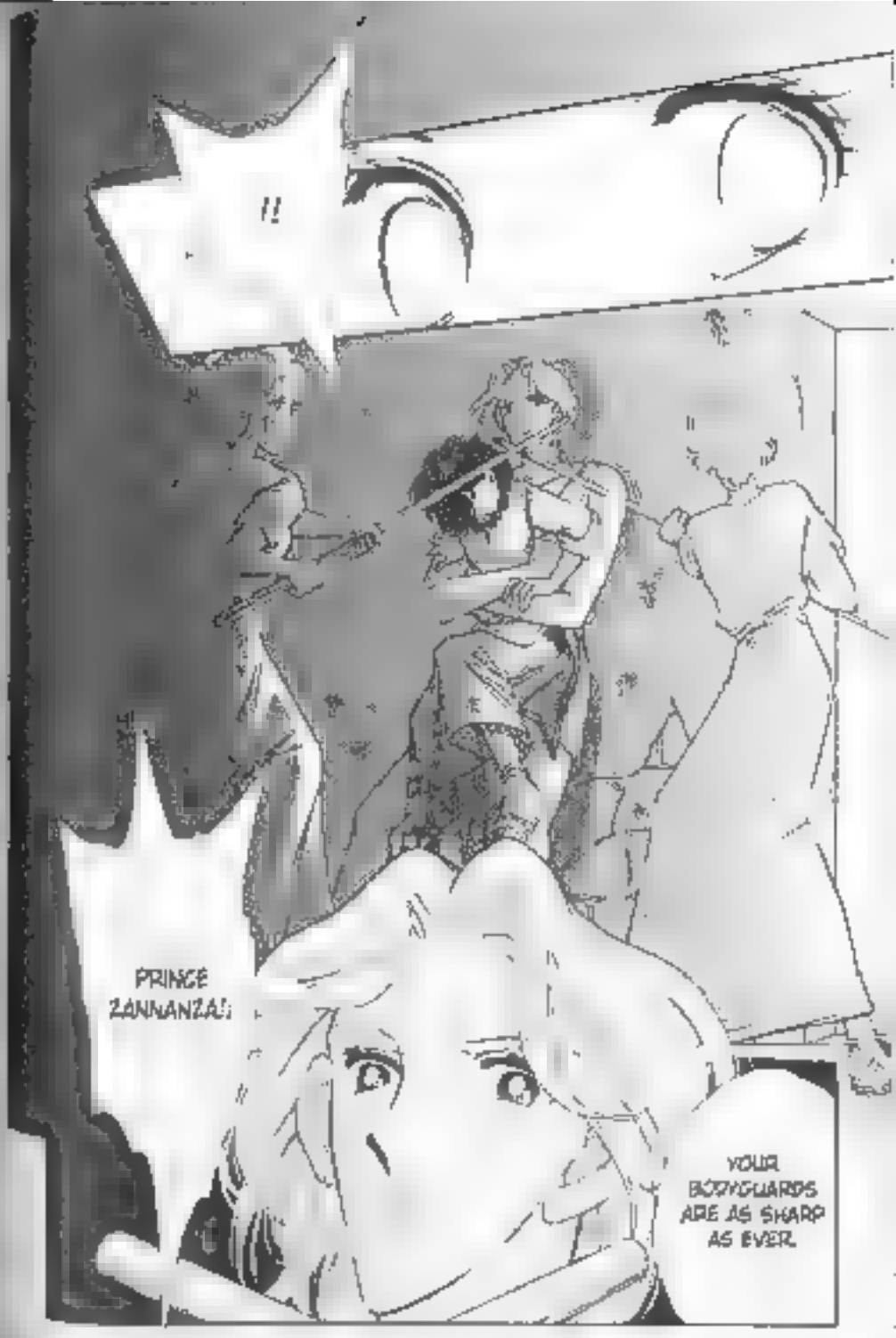
HOW IS EVERYONE? I BROUGHT YOU SOME FOOD.
OH, PRINCESS YURI

PRINCESS YURI, IF YOU RUSH, THE GUARDS WILL SUSPECT SOMETHING.
YOU'RE RIGHT
OH. TAKING FOOD TO THE PEOPLE IN THE COURTYARD WAIT FOR ME HERE
HOLY ISHTAR, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
MOST LIKELY THE YEW MAN WHO ARRIVED YESTERDAY. HE'S YOUNG AND SEEMS TO HAVE SOME STRENGTH LEFT. HE'S IN THE COURTYARD NOW.
WHO'S THE HEALTHIEST ONE AMONG YOU?
HEALTHIEST?
SHHH. SPEAK LOW SO THE GUARDS WON'T HEAR.


YOU'RE THE NEW PRISONER OF WAR?
PRINCE ZANNANZA.
WE'RE SORRY!

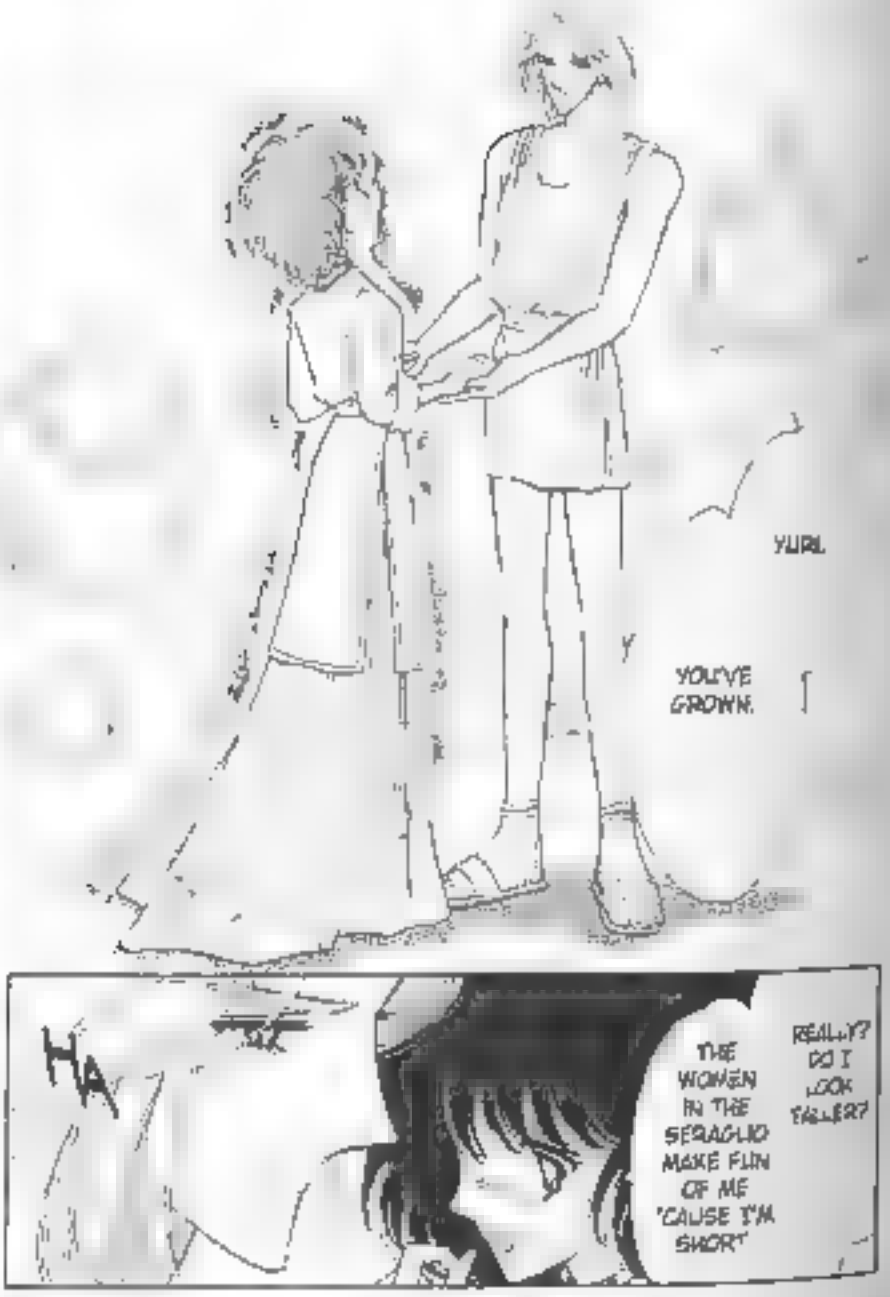
THE REASON I STOLE IN HERE IS.
MY BROTHER'S ARMIES ARE HANDLING THE MITANNI QUITE NICELY ON THEIR OWN.
HOW DID YOU GET HERE, PRINCE ZANNANZA?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE LEADING THE SECOND FORCE.

MY BROTHER SENT ME
TO HELP YOU ESCAPE. OF COURSE.


!!
PRINCE ZANNANZA!!
YOUR BODYGUARDS ARE AS SHARP AS EVER.

W-WAIT YURI.
DON'T YOU KNOW WHY MY BROTHER SENT ME TO RESCUE YOU IN THIS RISKY MANNER?
WHAT?
TELL HIM I'LL BE AWAITING HIS INSTRUCTIONS, ALL RIGHT?
THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS IS LEAVING SOON TO ENGAGE PRINCE KAIL'S ARMIES.
IF PRINCE KAIL WANTS TO STRIKE WASSUGANNI WHILE ITS DEFENSES ARE REDUCED
THE HITITE PRISONERS AND I WILL OPEN THE GATES FOR HIS SOLDIERS.
YES. HE MUST BE NEAR ZALPA BY NOW.
HE SENT YOU?
ISN'T IT WONDERFUL. PRINCESS YURI?
NO!
THE PERFECT TIME FOR PRINCE KAIL TO ATTACK THIS CITY BECAUSE MATTHAZA IS GOING OUT TO FIGHT
IF THE THREE OF US DISAPPEAR NOW. THEY'LL TIGHTEN SECURITY IN THE CITY.
WHEN WE GO. WE'LL GO TOGETHER
NO, I CAN'T DO THAT IF THEY FIND ME GONE THEY'LL KILL YOU.
THEN WE WILL STAY. BUT YOU MUST GO NOW
THEN PLEASE GET A MESSAGE TO PRINCE KAIL FOR ME
PRINCE ZANNANZA
YOU MUST HAVE FOUND A WAY OUT. RIGHT?

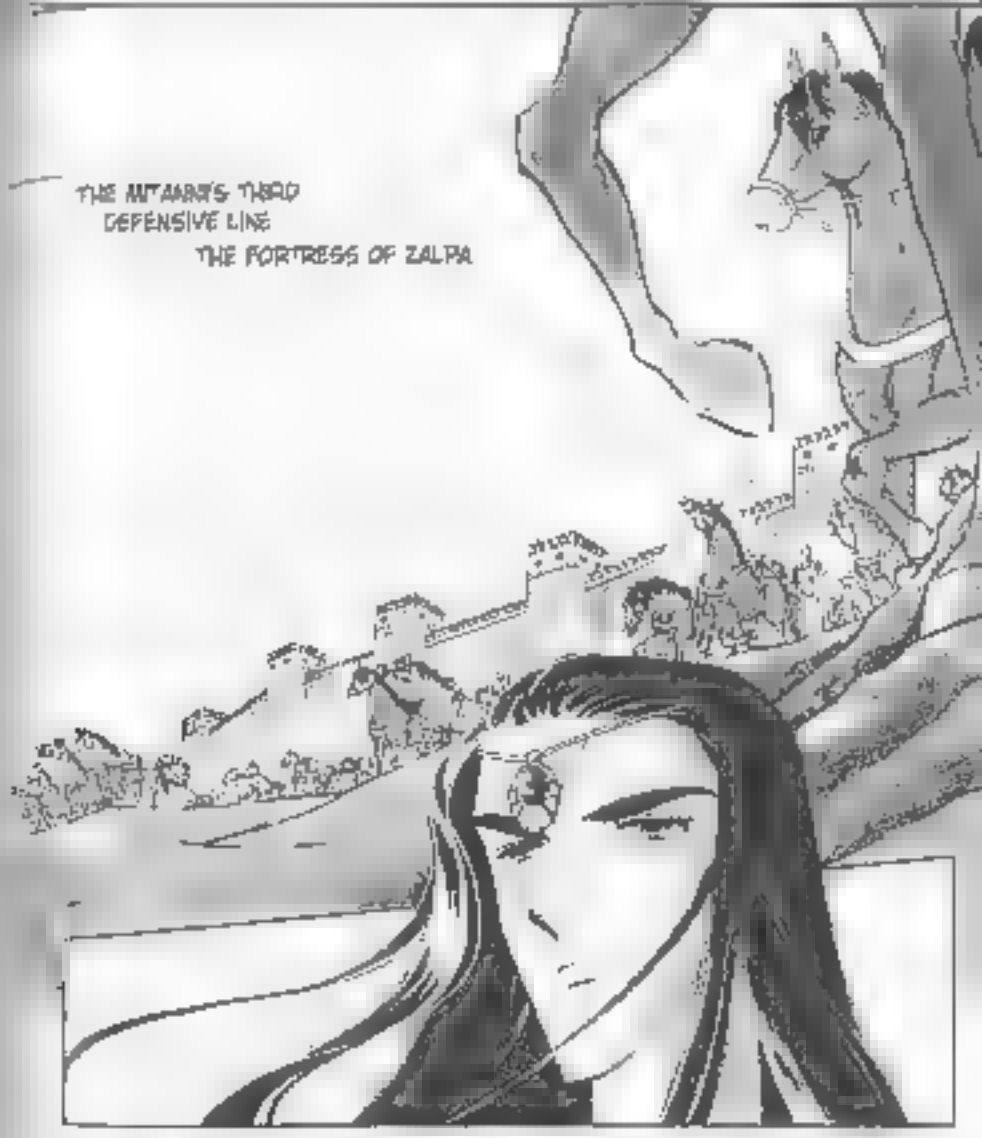
PRINCE KAEL HAS ALWAYS PROTECTED ME
NOW IT'S MY TURN TO HELP HIM
PLEASE TELL PRINCE KAEL NOT TO WORRY ABOUT ME HE SHOULD FOCUS ON WINNING THE WAR
YURI!
PRINCESS YURI
PRINCESS YURI
MY COUNTRY JAPAN!
MY FAMILY
I WON'T BE ABLE TO GO BACK TO JAPAN
OTHERWISE, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO RETURN TO YOUR COUNTRY
IT WILL SHINE FOR ONE MONTH. BUT IT IS A LONG JOURNEY BACK TO HATTUSA. YOU MUST LEAVE HERE WITHIN FOUR MONTHS TIME
WE HAVE ONLY FOUR MORE MONTHS UNTIL THE WET SEASON ARRIVES AND THE MORNING STAR APPEARS IN THE SKY


YURI.
YOU'VE GROWN.
HA
THE WOMEN IN THE SERAGLIO MAKE FUN OF ME 'CAUSE I'M SHORT
REALLY? DO I LOOK TALLER?

THANKS TO PRINCESS YURI, WE ARE STRONG AGAIN.
YOUR HIGHNESS, WE CAN DO IT
YOU SAY YOU AND THE HITTITE PRISONERS WILL OPEN THE GATES, BUT
YURI HAS WON THE LOYALTY OF THESE PRISONERS?
PLEASE GO BACK WITHOUT US. FOR NOW
I PROMISE I'LL DO MY PART WELL.
SEE, PRINCE ZAN-NANZA? WE'LL BE FINE.

I MUST GO.
I WANT TO LEAVE THE CITY AT NIGHT-FALL
PLEASE BE CAREFUL, PRINCE ZANNANZA.
THANK YOU FOR COMING TO RESCUE US.
SHE DOESN'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT MATTERS OF THE HEART
THAT WAS A BIT CRUEL OF HER, WASN'T IT?
WAIT PRINCE ZANNANZA.
ALL RIGHT I'LL RETURN WITH MY BROTHER'S ORDERS.
PLEASE.
GIVE THIS TO PRINCE KAIL FOR ME.
I LOVE YOU.
THOUGH WE CAN'T BE TOGETHER NOW, I LOVE YOU.

IT'S THE HITTITE ARMY!
RAAAH!
OH!
ATTACK!
WHAT IS THAT?!


THE MITANNI'S THIRD DEFENSIVE LINE
THE FORTRESS OF ZALPA

PRINCE OF DARKNESS. CHARIOTS ON THE HORIZON.
WE CAN'T ALLOW THE HITTITES TO ADVANCE ANY FARTHER.

TODAY WE ARE FIGHTING AN ARMY COMMANDED BY THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS HIMSELF.
STAY ALERT JUST THE SAME!
THIS IS SPLENDID!
OF COURSE NOT TWO MEN ON A CHARIOT CAN PROVIDE LITTLE PROTECTION FOR THEMSELVES, BUT..
YOUR HIGHNESS, OUR ARROWS ARE NOT HITTING THEM.
DON'T FORGET THEY ARE STILL THE FINEST CHARIOTEERS IN THE WORLD!
AS PRINCE KAL SAID, OUR CHARIOTS EASILY SUPPORT THE WEIGHT OF THREE MEN.
WITH THEIR WHEELS AND AXLES REINFORCED WITH IRON!
THIS GIVES THEM A DECISIVE ADVANTAGE!
WITH THREE MEN, ONE CAN FOCUS ON OFFENSE WHILE ANOTHER PROVIDES DEFENSE.
THREE MEN IN ONE CHARIOT!
IMPOSSIBLE!
WHAT'S THEIR SECRET?
NO CHARIOT CAN BEAR THE WEIGHT OF THREE MEN!

PRINCE OF DARKNESS!
SO.
YOU SACRIFICED NUMBERS FOR SPEED IN ORDER TO REACH ME, EH?
YOU MUST HATE ME FOR STEALING YOUR ISHTAR
KILL

RRMMB
BB
HIS CHARIOT HAS ONLY TWO MEN INSTEAD OF THREE?
WHO
THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS IS MINE
NO ONE ELSE TOUCHES HIM, UNDERSTAND?!

SOONER OR LATER, THAT GIRL, TOO,
WILL REVEAL HER TRUE CHARACTER, WHICH SHE HIDES BEHIND THE MASK OF ISHTAR.
I DON'T LOVE YURI BECAUSE SHE IS ISHTAR.
I FELL IN LOVE WITH HER BEFORE SHE BECAME A GODDESS.
IS THAT YOUR EXPERIENCE?
THEN I PITY YOU!

YOU'RE A FOOL. WOMEN ARE INCONSTANT, CREATURES.
A GIRL WILL EVENTUALLY BECOME THAT GREEDY DEMON CALLED A WOMAN.
NO MATTER HOW BEAUTIFUL OR YOUNG SHE IS.

I WILL HAVE YURI BACK IN HATTUSA, NO MATTER WHAT!
IN FOUR MONTHS.
I WILL SEND HER BACK TO HER FAMILY
NOW I'M MORE DETERMINED THAN EVER TO GET HER TO HATTUSA IN TIME
SHE WANTS TO HELP ME SO MUCH THAT SHE WOULD RISK HER CHANCE TO GO HOME
YURI STAYED IN WASSUGANNA FOR ME.

SMIRK
DAMN!!

THAT'S,
LOOK
PRINCE OF DARKNESS, LOOK AT THAT! SMOKE, RISING FROM WASSUGANN!
WHAT?

HIS TROOPS, TOO SEEM TO BE HOLDING BACK
IT'S STRANGE. HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DEFEAT ME BY NOW WITH A SWORD LIKE THAT

ONLY ATTACK THE SOLDIERS!
DON'T HARM THE CIVILIANS!
ADVANCE ON THE PALACE! WE WANT PRINCE TUSHRATTA, KING OF THE MITANNI.

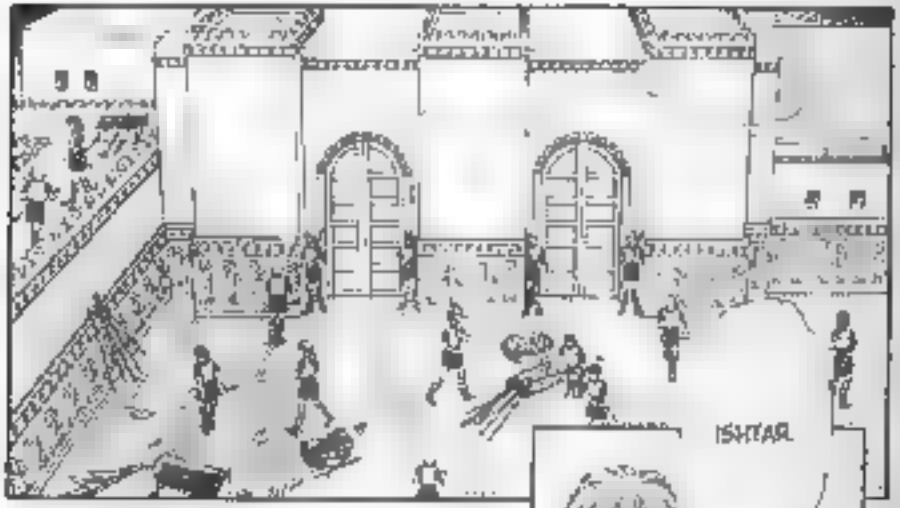
THE KING AND THE CROWN PRINCE HAVE BEEN CAPTURED
WARS BETWEEN KINGDOMS AREN'T OVER UNTIL
NO. CONQUERING THE CAPITAL WON'T BE ENOUGH.
WE DON'T HAVE A STRONG ENOUGH FORCE BECAUSE MANY OF OUR TROOPS ARE STILL FIGHTING ELSEWHERE.
THAT'S WHY WE'RE ASSEMBLING OUR SOLDIERS AT THE PALACE RIGHT NOW. BUT
YUKI?
I CAN FREELY ENTER THE PALACE, YOU KNOW
DO YOU WANT ME TO KEEP AN EYE ON KING TUSHRATTA WHILE YOU GATHER YOUR SOLDIERS?

ONCE WASSUGANNI IS IN OUR HANDS. THE WAR WILL BE OVER, RIGHT?
IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE GOING TO WIN.

PRINCE ZANNAN-ZA.
IF WE DON'T HURRY THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS WILL ESCAPE WITH THE KING
IF WE DON'T CAPTURE THE KING NOW, PRINCE KAIL'S EFFORTS WILL BE FOR NOTHING
I'M GOING BACK TO THE PALACE.
WAIT YURI!
WE MUST HELP THE KING ESCAPE
HURRY TO THE PALACE!

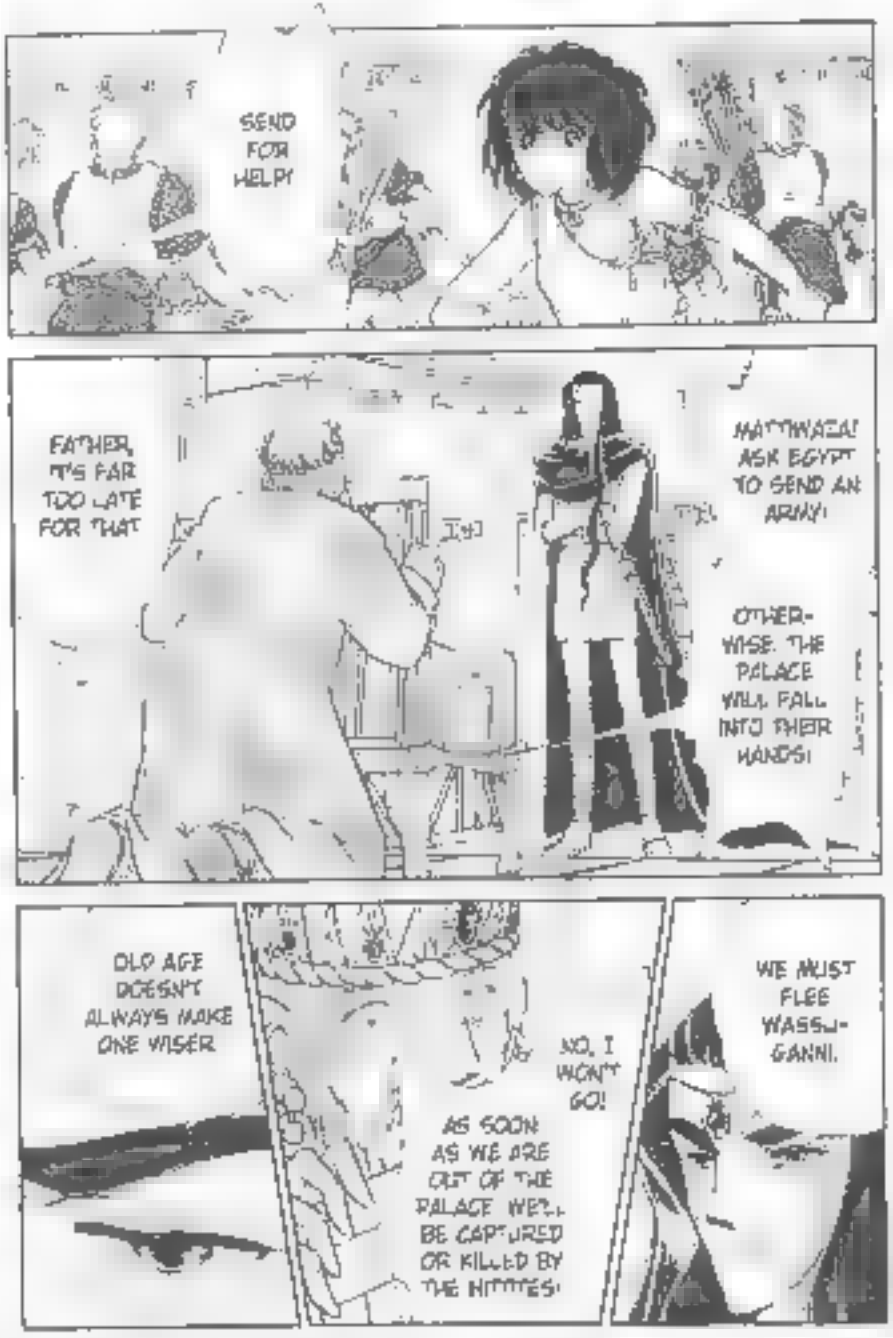
WHAT DID YOU SAY YOU'D DO?!
I HAVE TO TAKE YOU TO MY BROTHER!
THE BLOODY PRINCE OF DARK-NESS HAS RETURNED!
IT'S THE PRINCE OF DARK-NESS!
RR
NNN
BB
AAA
AA-UM

RYUL
SHALA
LISTEN CAREFULLY...


ISHTAR
YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO BRING WEAPONS INTO THE PALACE
THE PRINCE MUST BE BACK.
I'M NOT ARMED!

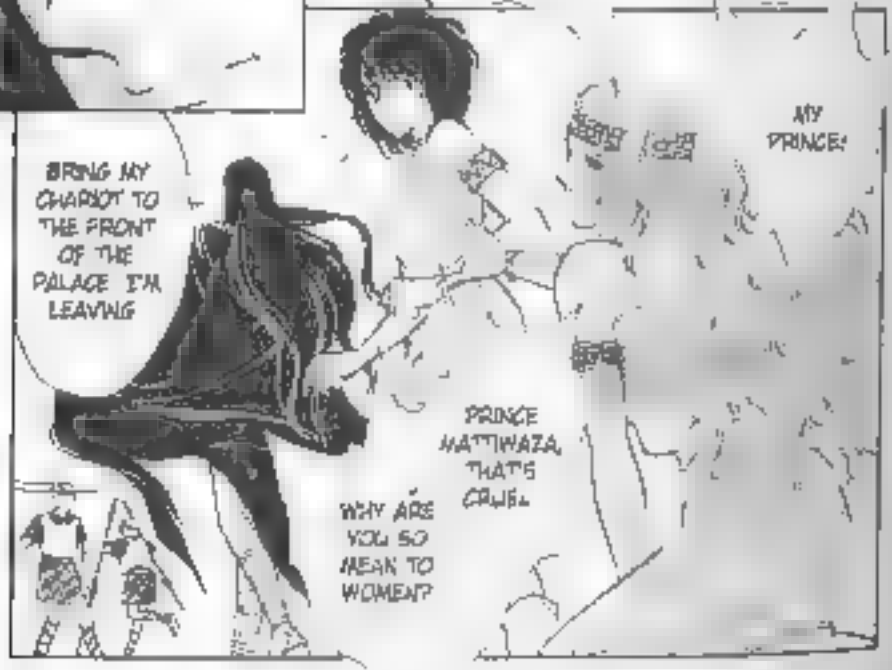
KAIL WILL REACH WASSUGANN SOON.
YOU NEED ONLY DELAY THEM UNTIL THEN.
AS SOON AS MY BROTHER ARRIVES, GET OUT OF THE PALACE, NO MATTER WHAT!
JUST UNTIL PRINCE KAIL REACHES WASSU-GANN.
OKAY PRINCE ZANNANZA.
I PROMISE I'LL GET OUT!

YES, YOUR HIGHNESS.
WAP
WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG, YOU DEFEATED THE HITTITES AND EVEN DREAMED OF SURPASSING EGYPT
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE YOU'RE THE SAME MAN WHO HAD SUCH AMBITION AND VIGOR.
ESCORT HIS MAJESTY TO THE CARRIAGE!
I LET GO OF ME YOU RUFFIANS!
GUARDS!
WAIT, PRINCE OF DARKNESS.
I HAVE TO DELAY HIM UNTIL PRINCE KAIL ARRIVES.
gulp
YOU'RE STILL HERE?
I THOUGHT YOU'D BE THE FIRST TO BOLT


SEND FOR HELP!
FATHER, IT'S FAR TOO LATE FOR THAT
MATTWATA! ASK EGYPT TO SEND AN ARMY!
OTHERWISE, THE PALACE WILL FALL INTO THEIR HANDS!
OLD AGE DOESN'T ALWAYS MAKE ONE WISER
NO, I WON'T GO!
AS SOON AS WE ARE OUT OF THE PALACE WE'LL BE CAPTURED OR KILLED BY THE HITTITES!
WE MUST FLEE WASSU-GANNI.

THE QUEEN OF THE HITTITES IS YOUR OLDER SISTER, NOT? IF SHE WON'T HELP YOU, THEN COZY UP TO A HITTITE MAN.
ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU DO BEST?

YOUR HIGHNESS.
YOUR HIGHNESS!
I BEG YOU, TAKE ME WITH YOU!
NADIA?


BRING MY CHARIOT TO THE FRONT OF THE PALACE. I'M LEAVING
MY PRINCE!
PRINCE MATTIWAZA, THAT'S CRUEL.
WHY ARE YOU SO MEAN TO WOMEN?

WHAT?
I'VE NO TIME FOR YOU RIGHT NOW.
I HAVE TO FREE THE WOMEN OF THE SERAGLIO.
WE'RE ABANDONING HASSOUANNE, AND WE CAN'T TAKE THE WOMEN WITH US.
I MUST ADMIT, MURSIL HAS PUT US IN A TIGHT SPOT.

HURRY OR THE HITTITE SOLDIERS WILL GET YOU!
EEK.
WOMEN, GO WHERE YOU WILL!
TAKE WHATEVER YOU WANT WITH YOU!
AAAH!

YES.
SHE WAS ABOUT YOUR AGE WHEN SHE [redacted].
SOLD?
SOLD TO THE PHARAOH OF EGYPT
TATUKIA IS MY OLDER SISTER
SHE LEFT THE KINGDOM TWENTY YEARS AGO
YOUR OLDER SISTER?

SHE'S VERY IMPORTANT TO YOU. ISN'T SHE?
YOU SAID YOU WERE FREEING THE WOMEN, BUT WHAT ABOUT TATUKIA?
I'VE NO TIME FOR YOU, GIRL
WAIT PRINCE OF DARKNESS!
I CAN'T LET HIM GO YET
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE BABBLING ABOUT

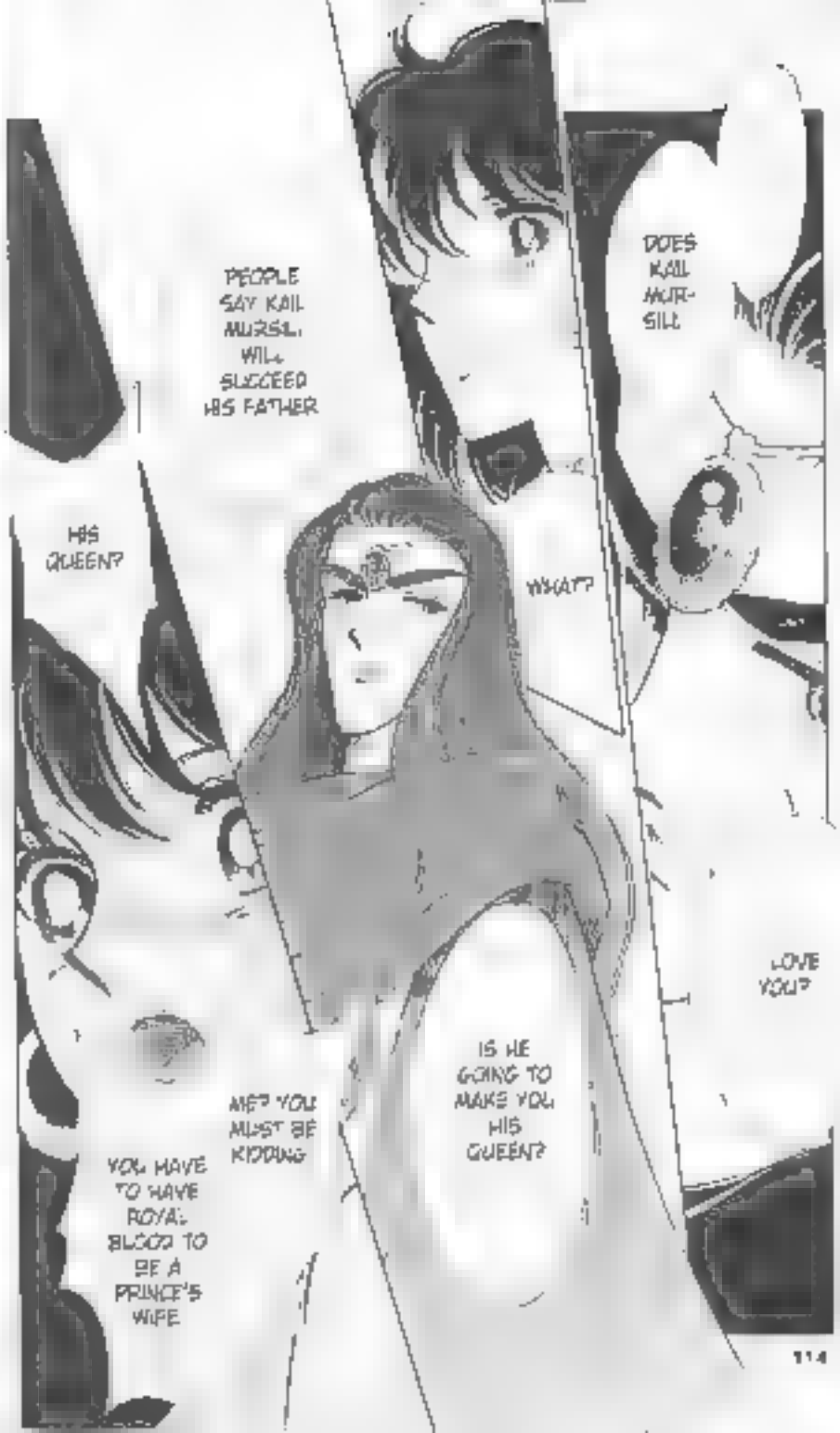
NOW AMENHOTEP IV IS DEAD AS WELL, AND MY SISTER RULES EGYPT THROUGH KING TUTANKHAMEN.
MY SISTER.
WORD REACHED US THAT THE NEW PHARAOH HAD MADE MY SISTER HIS QUEEN.
TWO YEARS LATER, AMENHOTEP III DIED AND HIS SON BECAME AMENHOTEP IV
I DO ADMIRE HER SHREWDNESS.
MATTL
THE NEW KING WAS SICKLY AND MY SISTER CONTROLLED HIM COMPLETELY

AT THAT TIME OUR COUNTRY WAS VERY SMALL IN EXCHANGE FOR A FORTUNE IN GOLD.
MY FATHER SOLD HIS OWN DAUGHTER.
THE PHARAOH WAS A VERY OLD MAN.
TO BE THE CONCUBINE OF AMENHOTEP III
I'M SORRY FOR HER!
YOU NEEDN'T BE

I DON'T LOVE YURA BECAUSE SHE IS ISHTAR.
AND A HUMAN BEING HAS TO HAVE LOVE.
FLOWERS CAN'T GROW WITHOUT LIGHT AND WATER.
THAT WAS THE ONLY WAY SHE COULD SURVIVE UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES.
SHE WAS LONELY AND AFRAID IN A STRANGE LAND
I STILL FEEL SORRY FOR YOUR SISTER
WOMEN PROSPER THROUGH SKILL AND CUNNING.
THEY THRIVE ON POWER AND GOLD.

NEFERTITI!
NEFERTITI.
IN EGYP
SHE IS
CALLED.
THAT'S A FAMOUS EGYPTIAN QUEEN!

BESIDES,
I'M GOING BACK TO JAPAN SOON
YOU REALLY ARE A MOST UNUSUAL WOMAN.
PERHAPS I SHALL
KEEP YOU WITH ME.
I
Y
?!
PUFF

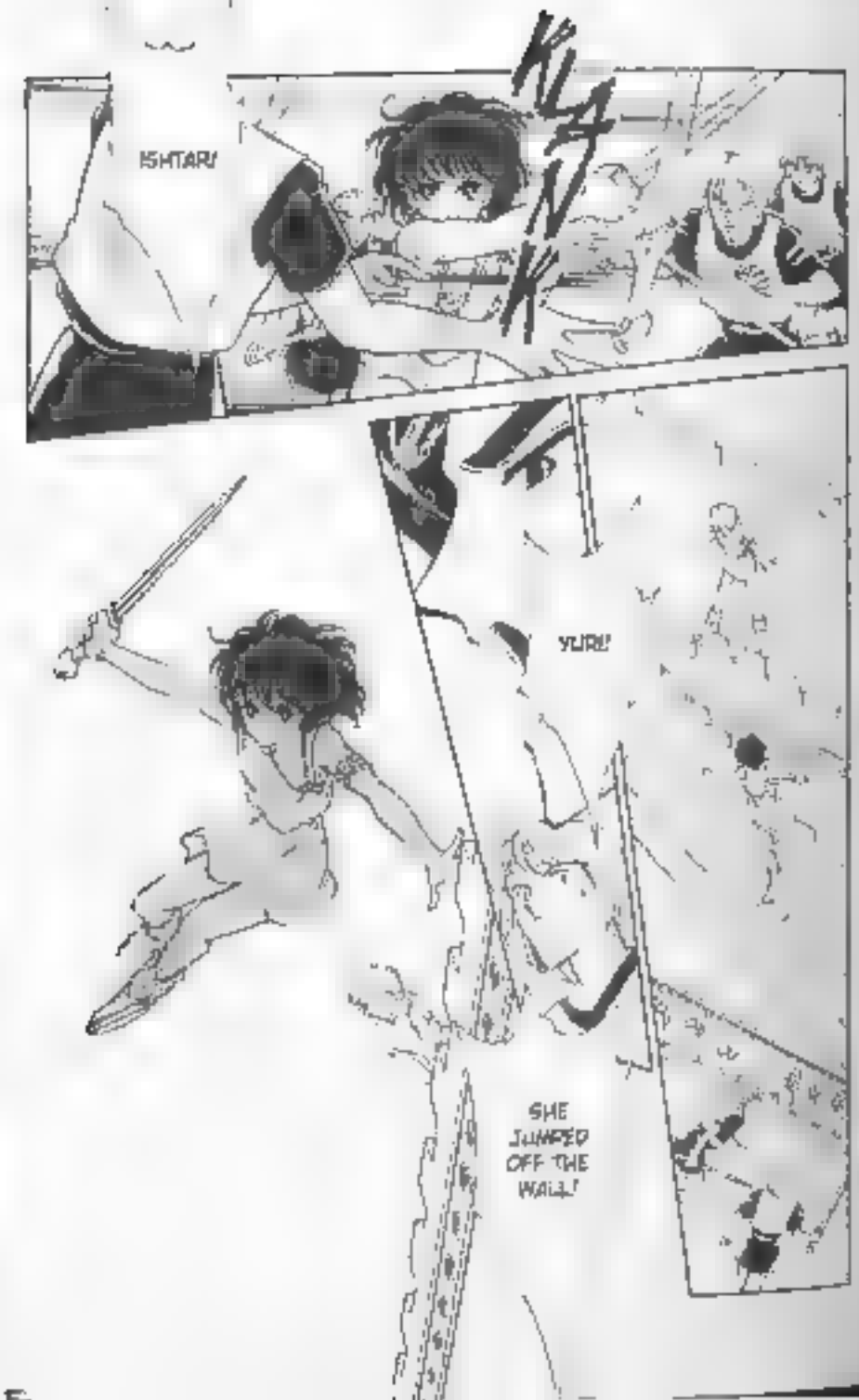

PEOPLE SAY KAIL MURSIL WILL SUCCEED HIS FATHER
DOES KAIL MUR-SIL
HIS QUEEN?
WHAT?
LOVE YOU?
ME? YOU MUST BE KIDDING
IS HE GOING TO MAKE YOU HIS QUEEN?
YOU HAVE TO HAVE ROYAL BLOOD TO BE A PRINCE'S WIFE

RAAAH!
FIND THE KING AS SOON AS THE GATES OPEN!
YES. BUT SHE WAS MEANT TO FLEE UPON YOUR ARRIVAL
ZANNANZA IS YURI INSIDE THE PALACE?
YURI!

A-A-A-

GIVE UP YOU CAN'T FIGHT THEM WITHOUT A SWORD.
RYL!
SHALA
FWUP

GUARDS!
DON'T LET HER LEAVE THE SERAGLIO!
I CAN SEE HIM!
PRINCE KAIL HAS ARRIVED!
ISHTAR, PLEASE STOP!
TMP


ISHTAR!
KLANK
YURI!
SHE JUMPED OFF THE WALL!

SORRY!
BUT I HAVE TO GO NOW!
WAP
SHISH

GET HER!
DON'T LET HER ESCAPE!
WILL I BE THE WIFE OF A HITTITE PRINCE?
IS PRINCE KAIL GOING TO MAKE ME HIS OFFICIAL WIFE? WHAT A SILLY IDEA!
THAT COULD NEVER HAPPEN.

I WAS BROUGHT TO THIS LAND BY QUEEN NAKIA'S MAGIC.
OTHERWISE, I'D BE GOING TO HIGH SCHOOL IN JAPAN RIGHT NOW
NO MATTER HOW MUCH I LOVE HIM.
PRINCE KAIL AND I ARE FROM DIFFERENT WORLDS.
I KNOW...
THAT NO MATTER HOW MUCH I LOVE HER, YURI CAN NEVER BE MINE
BUT I WILL HELP HER RETURN TO HER COUNTRY

IT'LL SOON BE A YEAR SINCE I ARRIVED IN THIS WORLD.
MY FAMILY MUST BE SEARCHING FOR ME.
MOM, DAD.
THAT'S THE BEST SOLUTION, ISN'T IT?
MARIE AND ELVIE

WHY DID I FALL IN LOVE WITH PRINCE KAIL?
THIS ISN'T MY TIME OR PLACE! I'M A MODERN WOMAN.
I'M GOING HOME TO JAPAN AS SOON AS THIS WAR IS OVER!

WHAT?
OH!
SHALA, LOOK AT THAT!
THAT BANNER!
THAT'S THE BANNER OF THE GAL MESHED!!
THAT MEANS THAT THE EMPEROR WILL BE HERE SOON.
THE GAL MESHED?

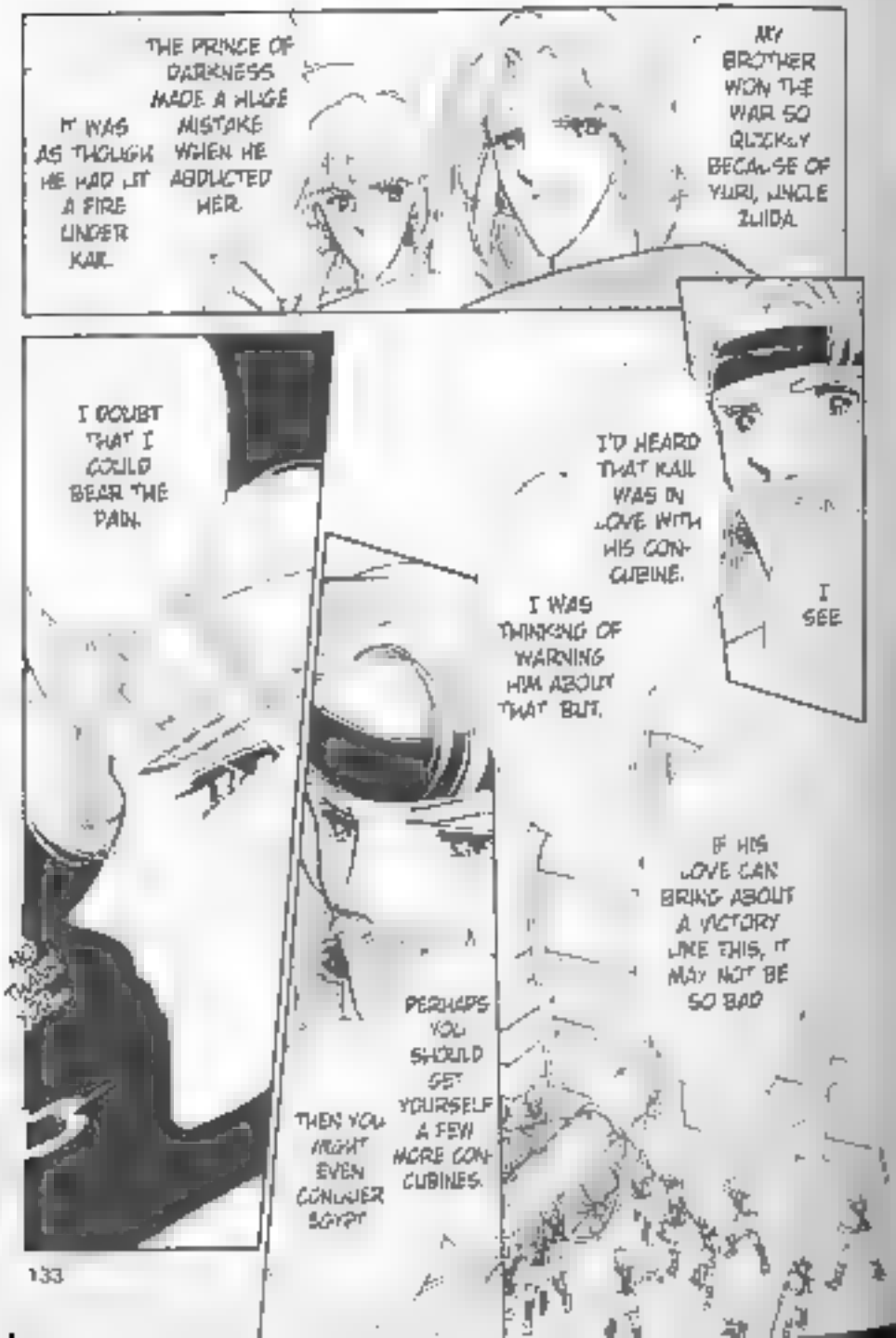
TERRIBLY WORRIED ABOUT ME
THEY MUST ALL BE...
I'M GLAD WE GOT OUT OF THE SERAGLIO, BUT.
PRINCESS YURI BE CAREFUL
FIRES HAVE BROKEN OUT EVERYWHERE AND THE CITIZENS ARE PANICKING.

BUT WE HAVE TO FIND PRINCE KAIL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
I WILL

I'LL BE GLAD FOR THE WAR TO END, BUT THAT MEANS...
THIS WAR WILL SOON BE OVER!
I'LL BE RETURNING TO HATTUSA SOON AND SAYING GOODBYE TO PRINCE KAIL FOREVER.
RYUL SHALA.
LET'S FIND PRINCE KAIL. HE'S PROBABLY AT THE FRONT GATE.
KLAK
YES, PRINCESS

THE GAL MASHEDI IS THE HIGHEST OFFICIAL IN THE MILITARY. THE POSITION IS USUALLY HELD BY AN IMPORTANT PRINCE
YES. THE CHIEF OF THE IMPERIAL GUARD. HE'S RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EMPEROR'S SAFETY
THE PRESENCE OF THE IMPERIAL GUARD HERE MEANS THAT HIS MAJESTY HAS TAKEN TO THE FIELD.
CURRENTLY ONE OF THE EMPEROR'S BROTHERS, PRINCE ZUIDA IS THE GAL MESHEDI.

KAIL!
TAHAMATA:
UNCLE ZUIDA!
YOU AMAZE ME!
I THOUGHT IT WOULD TAKE TWO YEARS FOR YOU TO CAPTURE WASSUGANN. BUT YOU DID IT IN ONLY EIGHT MONTHS.
IT HAPPENED SO QUICKLY THAT HIS MAJESTY HAD TO LEAVE HATTUSA IN HASTE!
HE SHOULD BE HERE IN ABOUT SEVEN DAYS.


MY BROTHER WON THE WAR SO QUICKLY BECAUSE OF YURI, UNCLE ZUIDA.
THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS MADE A HUGE MISTAKE WHEN HE ABDUCTED HER.
IT WAS AS THOUGH HE HAD LIT A FIRE UNDER KAIL.
I SEE
I'D HEARD THAT KAIL WAS IN LOVE WITH HIS CONCUBINE.
I WAS THINKING OF WARNING HIM ABOUT THAT BUT.
I DOUBT THAT I COULD BEAR THE PAIN.
IF HIS LOVE CAN BRING ABOUT A VICTORY LIKE THIS, IT MAY NOT BE SO BAD
PERHAPS YOU SHOULD GET YOURSELF A FEW MORE CONCUBINES.
THEN YOU MIGHT EVEN CONQUER EGYPT

FORGET ABOUT THE ESCAPING MITANNI SOLDIERS! EXTINGUISH THE FIRE.
WE ONLY NEED TO CAPTURE THE KING AND HIS CROWN PRINCE!
WHAT?
THERE ARE STILL PEOPLE IN THE PALACE
YES, BUT...
I'M GOING TO STOP THE FIRE THERE!
THIS CITY HAS A CANAL CONNECTED TO THE KHABUR RIVER, RIGHT?
NEVER MIND!
I'LL SEE TO IT.
ZANNANZA, I WANT YOU TO SEE TO THE SAFETY OF THE CITIZENS
YES, PRINCE KAIL!
UNCLE ZURDA! SEE TO THE PALACE

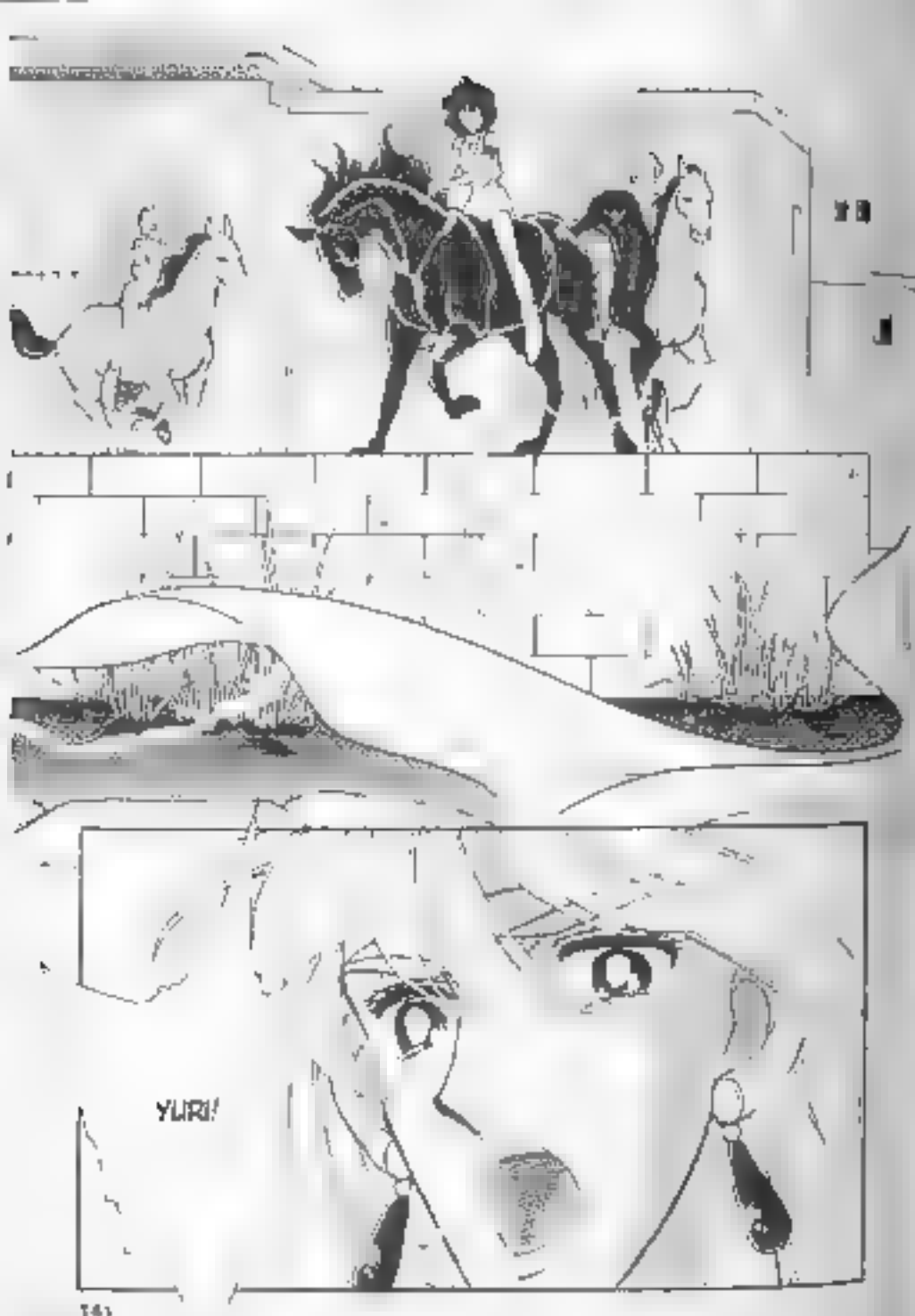
I BELIEVE YURI IS STILL INSIDE THE PALACE. TELL THE MEN TO BE CAREFUL NOT TO HARM HER!
VERY GOOD
PRINCE KAIL! THE PALACE GATE HAS BEEN TORN DOWN!
YES, I HOPE HE SURVIVES
HE SEEMS TO HAVE A BAD CASE OF IT
THE MITANNI SOLDIERS HAVE SET FIRES TO COVER THEIR ESCAPE
THE FIRE IS NEARING THE PALACE!
WHERE'S THIS SMOKE COMING FROM?
NOR THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS
WE HAVEN'T FOUND KING TUSHRATTA YET SIR.
KEEP SEARCHING. THEY MUST STILL BE HERE

RYLL SHALA.
WE'RE GOING TO TAKE A DETOUR.
ASLAN?
WIP
WIP
NOT THAT WAY
THIS WAY, ASLAN.
WIP
ASLAN: WE WANT TO GO TOWARD THE PALACE.
ASLAN.
KLOP

AAAH
EEEE

WHAT'S WRONG?
ARE YOU THIRSTY?
IT'S SO SMOKY HERE I CAN'T SEE THE SURFACE OF THE WATER.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, ASLAN?!
YOU'RE HEADING FOR THE CANAL.
WHINNY
AAAH!


YURI!

PRINCE KAL?

?!
YURI!
PRINCESS YURI!
AAAH!

YURI!
PRINCE KAIL!

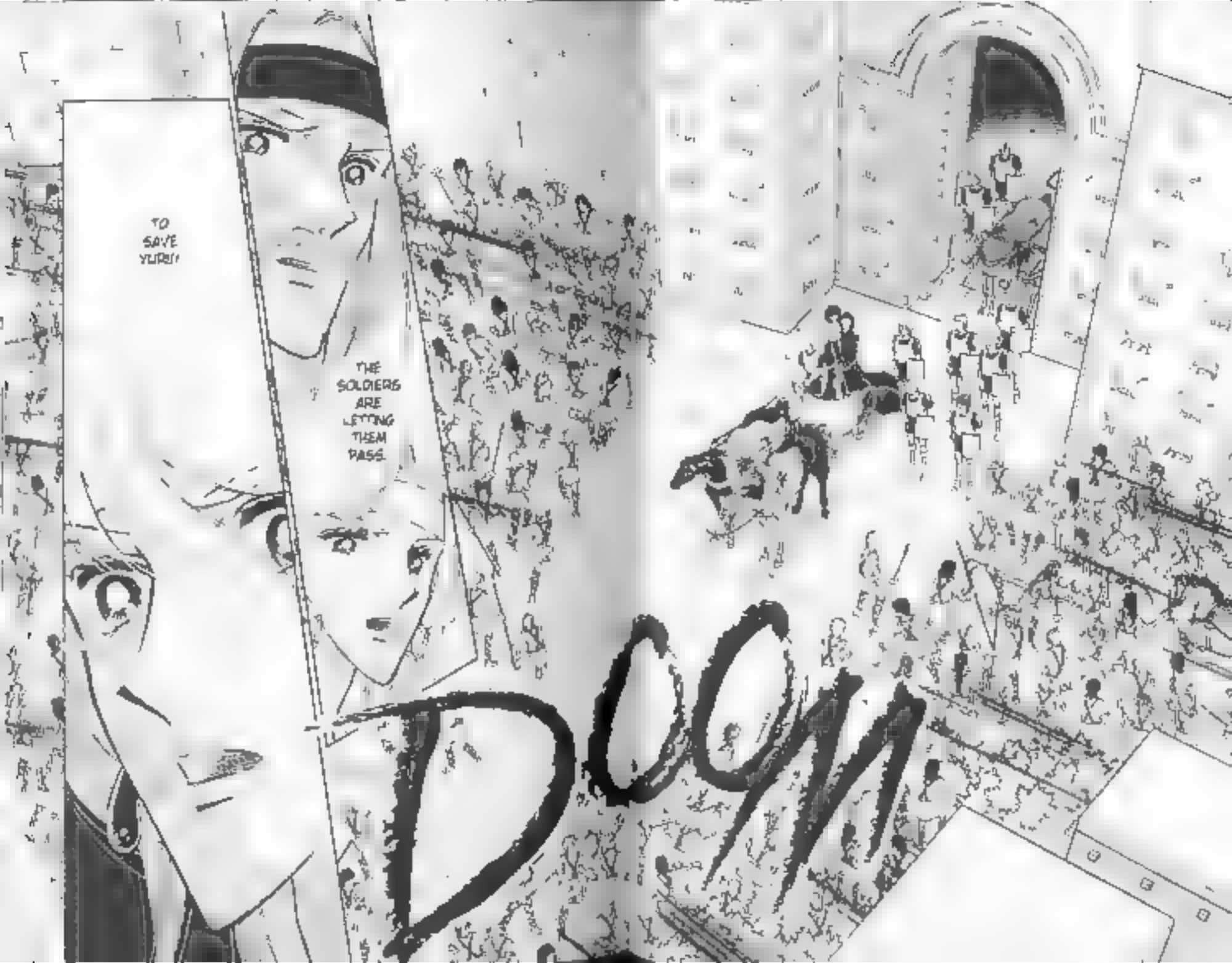
PRINCESS YURI!
OH!
I DON'T NEED THEM.
I ONLY NEED YOU
MATTIWAZA!
RYUL SHALA
WE CAN'T LEAVE YOU!
RUN!
SPLASH
WUMP
PRINCE OF DARKNESS!
PRINCESS YURI!

WHAT?
HE TOOK YURI HOSTAGE?
RAAH
ISHTAR

OPEN THE GATES OF WASSU-GANN FOR US.
YOU WILL WITHDRAW YOUR ARMY FROM THE CITY AND ALLOW MY FATHER AND I TO DEPART
KAIL AKERSILI?
BUT IF YOU CARE FOR THIS GIRL, YOU'LL DO AS I ASK
IT'S YOUR CHOICE
WHAT?!

MURMUR
MURMUR
ISHTAR!

WHY DO YOU HESITATE? ARE YOU GIVING UP THE CHANCE TO WIN THIS WAR FOR ONE LITTLE GIRL?
YOUR SOLDIERS HAVE RISKED THEIR LIVES FOR YOU! THEY'LL NEVER ACCEPT THIS!
KAIL!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? YOU MUST CAPTURE THE KING AND THE CROWN PRINCE NOW!
OR I WILL KILL ISHTAR BEFORE YOUR EYES.
MAKE WAY FOR US!


TO SAVE YURI!
THE SOLDIERS ARE LETTING THEM PASS
BOOM

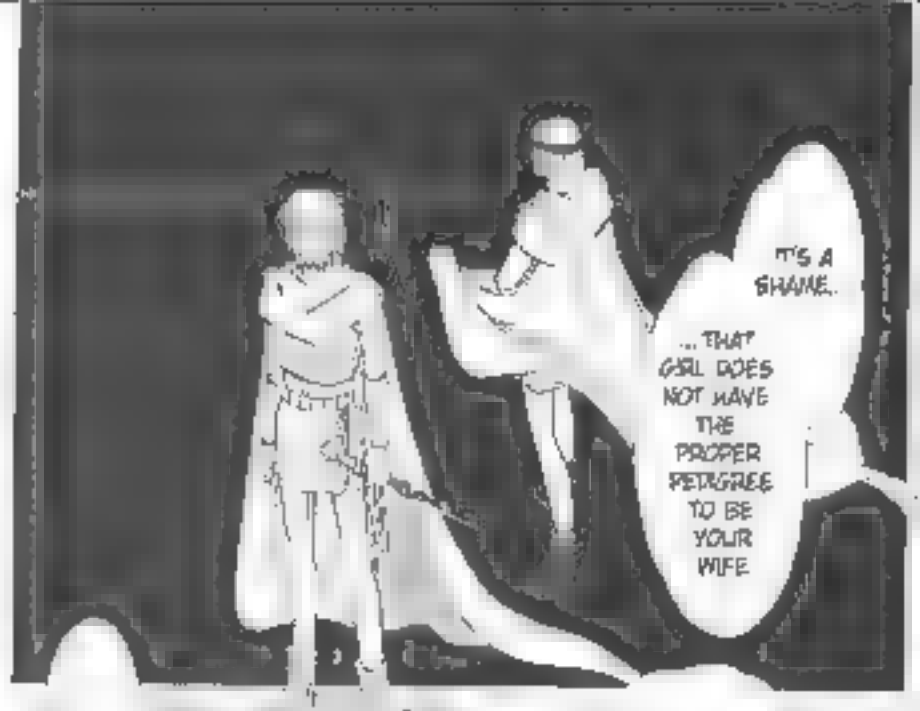
YURU!
NO..
BROTHER.

WAP
AAAH
LONG LIVE ISHTAR!
UNH!
LISTEN, MITANNI SOLDIERS! WE HAVE THE GODDESS OF WAR IN OUR HANDS!
THE GODS ARE WITH US.

AND ZANNANZA WOULD MAKE AN EXCELLENT GAL MESHED!
YOU ALREADY HAVE QUALIFIED PEOPLE WHO CAN SERVE IN YOUR SENATE
KAIL
YOU HAVE THE WISDOM AND CHARISMA TO BE AN EMPEROR
ALL YOU LACK IS A WIFE.

WHAT DID YOU SAY?
WE'LL GET HER BACK, WHATEVER IT TAKES!
ISHTAR BELONGS TO US NOW!
OUT OF OUR WAY!
AND I BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE THE ONE WHO WILL CARRY OUR LEGACY FORWARD.
HIS MAJESTY AND I BUILT OUR SMALL NATION IN ANATOLIA INTO THE POWERFUL EMPIRE IT IS TODAY
KAIL
UNCLE ZUDA?
I'M IMPRESSED BY THE CHARACTER OF YOUR MEN.

YOU KNOW THAT PRINCESS YURI HAS ALL THE QUALITIES NECESSARY TO BE TAIWANANNA.
KEEP HER HERE
AND MAKE HER YOUR LAWFUL WIFE
I BEG?
WHAT DID YOU SAY?


IT'S A SHAME.
...THAT GIRL DOES NOT HAVE THE PROPER PEDIGREE TO BE YOUR WIFE

WELL, I MUST GET READY TO RECEIVE HIS MAJESTY.
YOUR HIGHNESS.
YOU SHOULD KEEP YURI WITH YOU.
WHETHER SHE HAS THE PROPER PEDIGREE OR NOT. THERE'S NO WAY SHE WILL BE MY QUEEN.
TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE. WE MUST RETURN YURI TO HER COUNTRY IN FOUR MONTHS TIME
I BELIEVE HE'LL SEEK REFUGE EITHER IN NINEVEH OR CARCHEMISH.
KIOUTRI, PREPARE TO PURSUE THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS.

PERHAPS THIS GIRL CAN GROW STRONG LIKE THAT
WHEN YOU PROVIDE ENOUGH LIGHT AND WATER
...TO A SAPLING AND NURTURE IT, IT GROWS INTO A MASSIVE TREE THAT IN TURN CAN HELP THE DESERT RETAIN WATER
KAL MURSIL, WOULD YOU GIVE HER THE NURTURE SHE NEEDS?

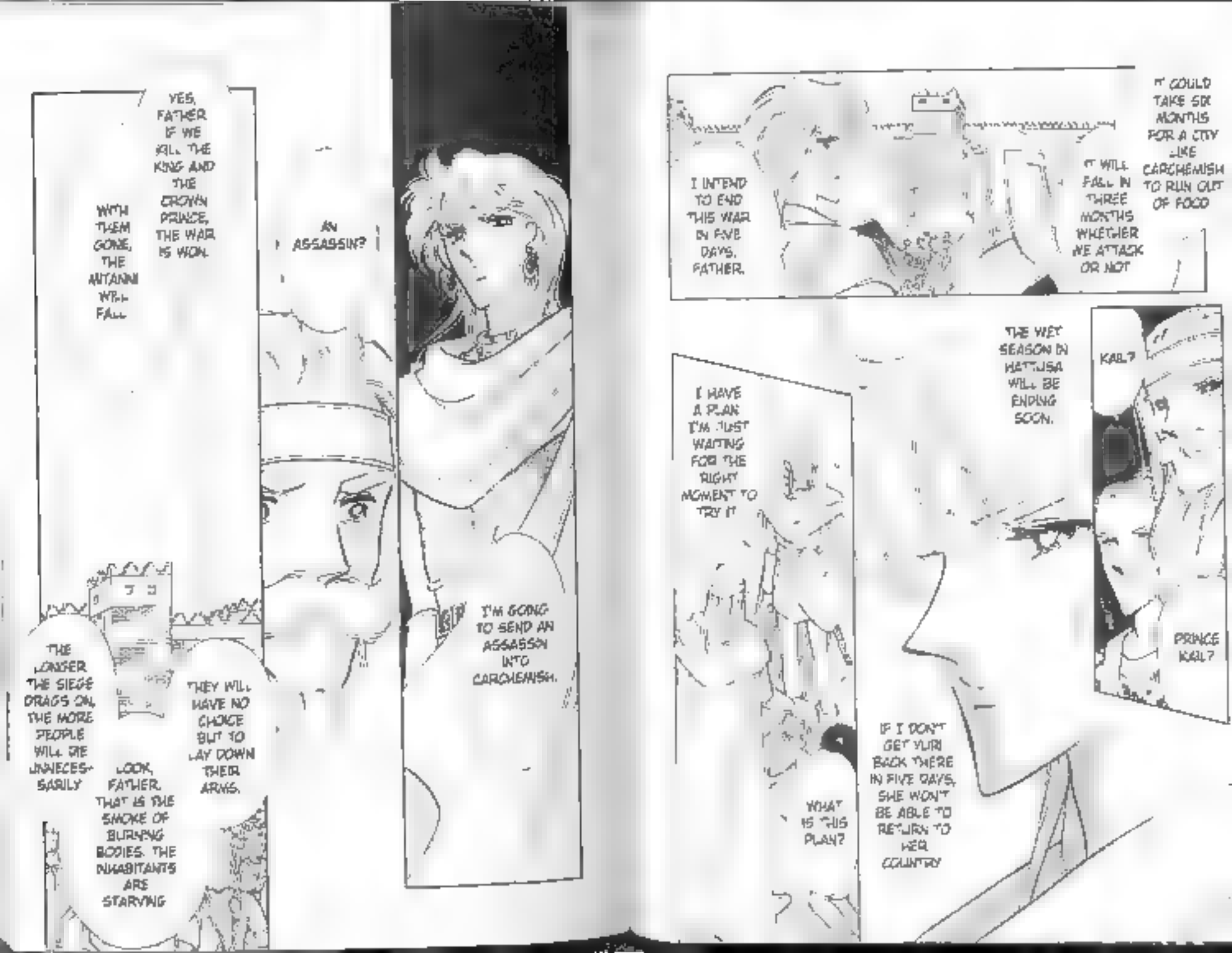
SEND ME BACK TO PRINCE KAIL
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?
YOU SAID YOU HAD NO INTEREST IN ME!
YOU SAID FLOWERS NEED LIGHT AND WATER TO GROW, RIGHT?
I'VE CHANGED MY MIND
THE SAME IS TRUE FOR TREES.

MAKE YURI MY LAWFUL WIFE?
MAKE HER QUEEN OF THE HITTITES?
YOU WILL TRY TO TAKE THIS GIRL BACK FROM ME
KAIL MURSIL, IF YOU REALLY LOVE HER..
WE SHALL SEE NOW

HITTITE MILITARY POST
IT HAS BEEN FOUR MONTHS SINCE THE MITANNI KING TUSHRATTA AND CROWN PRINCE MATTIWAZA TOOK REFUGE HERE
CARCHEMISH
IS A PORT ON THE EUPHRATES. IT OCCUPIES A STRATEGIC POSITION BETWEEN MESOPOTAMIA AND THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN SEA.
HIS MAJESTY HAS JUST ARRIVED.
I HAVE A REPORT FOR HIS HIGHNESS PRINCE KAIL
THEIR ARMIES ARE NOW IN A STANDOFF WITH THE HITTITE FORCES THAT SURROUND CARCHEMISH.
FATHER IS HERE?

THE HITTITE EMPEROR SUPPILULIUMA I, AND THE MITANNI KING TUSHRATTA, HAVE BEEN RIVALS SINCE THEIR YOUTH.
SUPPILULIUMA I HAS SUFFERED SEVERAL SMARTING DEFEATS.
BOTH RULERS EXPANDED THEIR SMALL COUNTRIES INTO POWERFUL, THRIVING NATIONS. THEY HAVE CROSSED SWORDS MORE THAN ONCE IN THE PAST AND,

KAR.
IT SEEMS THE MITANNI ARE DETERMINED TO HOLD OUT FOREVER, EH?
FATHER
WE FAILED TO CAPTURE TUSH-RATTA.
ALTHOUGH WE SEIZED HIS CAPITAL
I'M SORRY
BESIDES, TUSHRATTA'S ESCAPE WILL AFFORD ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO WITNESS HIS BEHEADING
IT'S ALL RIGHT I EXPECTED THIS WAR TO GO ON FOR YEARS.
I NEVER DREAMED YOU'D HAVE SUCH SUCCESS IN LESS THAN A YEAR.


YES, FATHER. IF WE KILL THE KING AND THE CROWN PRINCE, THE WAR IS WON.
WITH THEM GONE, THE ANTANNI WILL FALL
AN ASSASSIN?
I'M GOING TO SEND AN ASSASSIN INTO CARCHEMISH.
THE LONGER THE SIEGE DRAGS ON, THE MORE PEOPLE WILL DIE UNNECESSARILY
LOOK, FATHER. THAT IS THE SMOKE OF BURNING BODIES. THE INHABITANTS ARE STARVING
THEY WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO LAY DOWN THEIR ARMS.
I INTEND TO END THIS WAR IN FIVE DAYS, FATHER.
IT WILL FALL IN THREE MONTHS WHETHER WE ATTACK OR NOT
IT COULD TAKE SIX MONTHS FOR A CITY LIKE CARCHEMISH TO RUN OUT OF FOOD
I HAVE A PLAN. I'M JUST WAITING FOR THE RIGHT MOMENT TO TRY IT
WHAT IS THIS PLAN?
THE WET SEASON IN HATTUSA WILL BE ENDING SOON.
IF I DON'T GET YURI BACK THERE IN FIVE DAYS, SHE WON'T BE ABLE TO RETURN TO HER COUNTRY
KAIL?
PRINCE KAIL?

TRUE, YOUR HIGHNESS.
BUT I DIDN'T KNOW THEN THE KIND OF PERSON SHE IS.
SHRUG
WIP
AS I RECALL, WHEN I TOOK HER AS MY CONCUBINE, YOU OPPOSED THE IDEA MORE THAN ANYONE.
AND MAKE HER MY LAWFUL WIFE? IS THAT IT?
NO NEED FOR HASTE MY PRINCE.
YOU CAN TAKE PRINCESS YURI BACK AFTER THAT
WE NEED DO NOTHING. CARCHEMISH WILL SOON FALL ON ITS OWN.
YOU DON'T NEED TO TELL ME THAT!
SHE IS PRINCESS YURI
A WOMAN WITH LEADERSHIP ABILITY, WISDOM, AND SELF-DISCIPLINE. NOW YOU HAVE FOUND THAT WOMAN.
FOR YEARS YOU HAVE SOUGHT A PRINCESS WHO WOULD MAKE A GOOD TAWANANNA.

I DON'T KNOW THAT YET
I OFFERED THEM FOOD, BUT THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS REFUSED TO OPEN THE GATE
HMM. BUT HOW ARE YOU GOING TO GET THE ASSASSIN IN?
I AM PREPARED FOR A LONG WAR.
I HAVE ENTRUSTED THE FRONTLINE COMMAND TO YOU. DO WHAT YOU THINK IS BEST
NEVER MIND
YOUR HIGHNESS.
VERY GOOD, YOUR MAJESTY.
ZUDA, WHY DON'T WE DRINK SOME WINE IN ANTICIPATION OF OUR VICTORY?

WE MUST GIVE HER UP.
...AND PRETEND SHE NEVER EXISTED
SHE WAS NEVER MEANT TO BE HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE.
SHE WASN'T..
...MEANT TO MEET ME.
SHE WASN'T MEANT TO MEET ANY OF US.
...I PROMISED HER I'D RETURN HER TO HER OWN COUNTRY!
YURI WOULD MAKE AN IDEAL TAWANANNA, BUT
YOU'RE RIGHT.

WHAT DO YOU SEE IN KAIL MURSILI?
WIP
ENOUGH.
MOST WOMEN WOULD ADAPT TO THEIR NEW CIRCUMSTANCES WITHIN A MONTH OF THEIR CAPTURE.
I'M NOT GOING BACK TO PRINCE KAIL. I'M GOING BACK TO JAPAN. I'M GOING BACK TO MY FAMILY THAT'S WAITING FOR ME.
IT ISN'T IN THIS WORLD MUCH LONGER. I'M AFRAID MY LOVE FOR PRINCE KAIL WILL GROW SO STRONG THAT I'LL NEVER WANT TO GO HOME.

YOU SHOULD EAT WHILE YOU CAN.
MORE PEOPLE PERISH EVERY DAY.
THE FOOT SOLDIERS ARE ALREADY GOING HUNGRY.
LET ME GO!

I WAS READY TO GO BACK TO JAPAN AS SOON WASEDA-SAN FELL

I WAS PREPARED TO FORGET ABOUT PRINCE KAIL

DON'T EVER TOUCH ME AGAIN!
IF YOU TRY TO KISS ME AGAIN, I'LL BITE IT OFF!
HOW CRUDE OF YOU TO BITE MY TONGUE.
IS THAT A HITTITE CUSTOM?

Hik
IT SEEMS I NEEDN'T WORRY ABOUT BOREDOM, HOWEVER LONG WE ARE STUCK HERE.

?!
BUT THERE ARE WAYS TO TAME
EVEN THE WILDEST OF CATS.

MMM

WHAT?
YOUR HIGHNESS!
A WOMAN WHO CLAIMS TO BE THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS'S CONCUBINE IS ASKING US TO HELP HER ENTER THE CITY
PRINCE KAIL...
PLEASE HELP ME
I HAVE A REQUEST, YOUR MAJESTY
I BEG YOU, PLEASE.
MY NAME IS NADIA. I'VE COME ALL THE WAY FROM WASSUGANNI TO BE WITH PRINCE MATTIWAZA.
tup
tup tup
BUZZ BUZZ
I CAN'T HELP IT IN A FEW SHORT DAYS IT WILL BE TOO LATE
AAAAAH
I KNOW
I SHOULDN'T BE IMPATIENT BUT
WE'LL FIND SOME WAY TO GET AN ASSASSIN INTO THE CITY
PRINCE KAIL, PLEASE GET SOME REST

HE, HE.
HE'S RIGHT I SHOULD BE THE ONE TO GO
YOU WANT THE KING AND THE CROWN PRINCE KILLED RIGHT? WELL, I'M THE FINEST SWORDSMAN HERE
THEN LET ME GO
NO ONE WOULD TAKE A BEAR FOR A WOMAN.
IDIOT YOU'LL HAVE TO DISGUISE YOURSELF AS A HANDMAID.
GOOD I'LL SNEAK INTO THE PALACE
WE'LL SEND ONLY ONE. MORE MIGHT BE FOUND OUT
AND I
ME TOO.
I SHALL ENTER CARCHEMISH.
PRINCE KAL!

WAIT FATHER
I WON'T ALLOW MY ENEMY THE CONCUBINE OF HIS CONCUBINE
I WILL NOT
A CONCUBINE HAS AN ENTOURAGE, RIGHT?
THIS IS THE OPPORTUNITY WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR.
THIS WOMAN IS STEPMOTHER'S SISTER.
PERHAPS YOU SHOULD GRANT HER REQUEST
WHAT?
THEY AGREED TO ET PRINCESS NADIA ENTER CARCHEMISH

INCENSE?
JUST STAY AWAY FROM ME!
I'M NOT A CAT THAT'S HIGH ON CATNIP!
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS.
THIS IS TO STOP YOU FROM BITING ME.
YES

DON'T TELL FATHER OF THIS, ALL RIGHT?
BROTHER, WHAT NONSENSE IS THIS?
YOUR HIGHNESS, PLEASE DON'T
PLEASE LET US DO IT, YOUR HIGHNESS.
BROTHER, YOU WISH TO RESCUE YURI YOURSELF. DON'T YOU?
DON'T WORRY. I'M NEARLY AS GOOD WITH A SWORD AS ANY OF YOU.

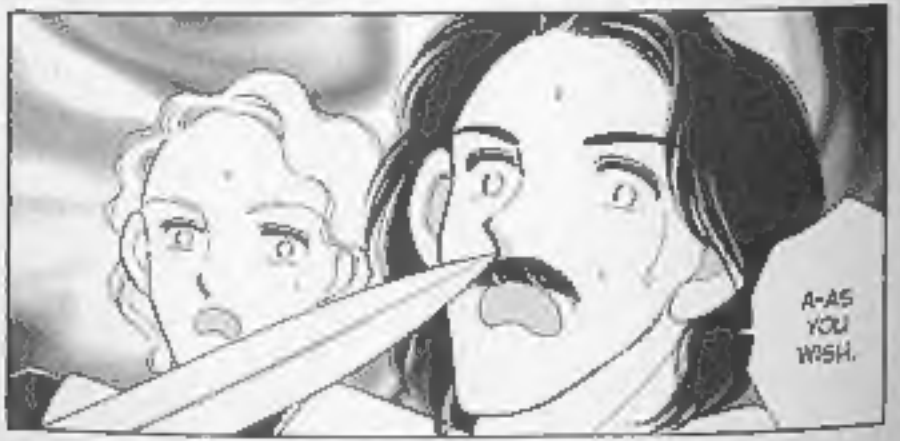
FWUP
NO!
I'VE DECIDED TO GIVE IT A TRY.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO ME?
THIS INCENSE WAS MADE FOR AN EGYPTIAN KING--- FOR USE IN HIS BED-CHAMBER.
I WAS DUBIOUS THAT IT HAD THE POWER TO AROUSE WOMEN, BUT...
WHAT... WHAT IS THIS?
I... I CAN'T KEEP MY BALANCE.
OH?!
?!
SWUMP
YANK
P!P

DON'T TOUCH ME!
NO!
OH...
...THIS SWEET SMELL HAS DONE SOMETHING TO ME.
MY STRENGTH IS GONE...
PRINCE KAIL!

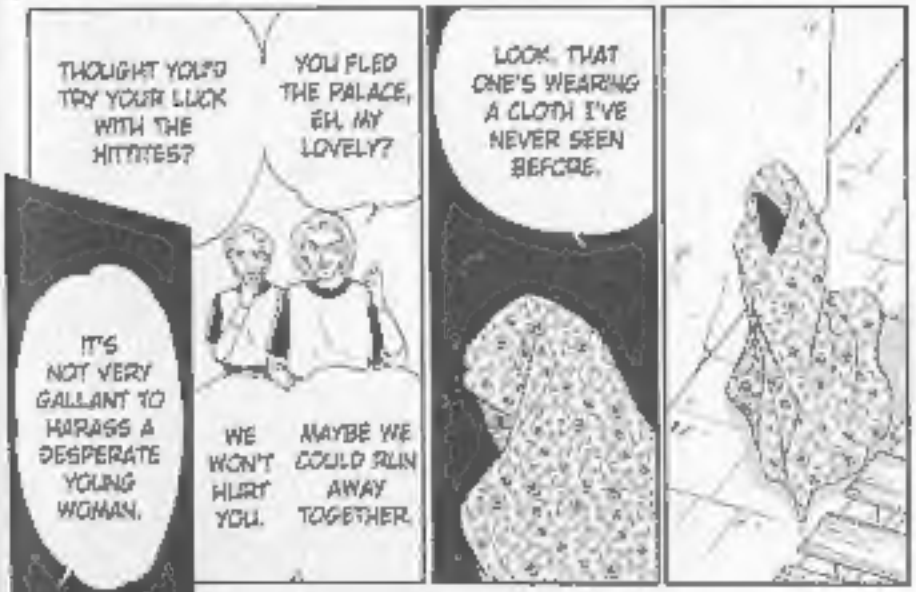
DON'T...

CAN YOU TELL ME?
IF A FLOWER WILL GROW WHEN GIVEN LOVE AND NURTURE...
...WHAT HAPPENS IF A FLOWER IS BROKEN BEFORE IT CAN BLOOM?

BUT I'M GLAD TO MEET YOU DESERTERS. UNDER THE CIRCUM-STANCES.
NOW TURN AROUND AND GUIDE ME TO THE PALACE.
FWAP


A-AS YOU WISH.

ENTER.
COME THIS WAY.
PRINCESS NASRA.
I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU'RE ALIVE.


I THOUGHT YOU'D TRY YOUR LUCK WITH THE HITTITES?
YOU FLED THE PALACE, EH, MY LOVELY?
WE WON'T HURT YOU.
MAYBE WE COULD RUN AWAY TOGETHER.
IT'S NOT VERY GALLANT TO HARASS A DESPERATE YOUNG WOMAN.
LOOK. THAT ONE'S WEARING A CLOTH I'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE.

SCANED BY CHROKO.J EDITOR AKITO - SAMA